

**COUNCIL**

26 February 2024

Minutes of the Council meeting held at the on Monday 26 February 2024 at 6:30pm.

Present: Councillors Mrs V. Cook (Chair), J. Barnes (MBE), Mrs M.L. Barnes, C.A. Bayliss, A.E. Biggs, S. Burton, T.J.C. Byrne, C.A. Clark, S.J. Coleman, B.J. Coupar, C.A. Creaser, G.R.M. Delany, B.J. Drayson, K.M. Field, A.E. Ganly, N. Gordon, P.J. Gray, T.O. Grohne, L. Hacking, A.P. Hayward, T.M. Killeen (MBE), M.C. Legg, C.R. Maynard, R.A. McCourt, S.B. McGurk, A.S. Mier, D.B. Oliver, P.N. Osborne, C. Pearce, A. Rathbone Ariel, J. Stanger, R.B. Thomas (Vice-Chair). H.L. Timpe and C.J. Winter.

Advisory officers present: Chief Executive, Director – Place and Climate Change, Interim Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer), Interim Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services Manager.

Also Present: 2 members of the public in the Council Chamber and 27 members of the public via the live webcast.

**C23/66. MINUTES**

The Chair was authorised to sign the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 December 2023 as a correct record of the proceedings.

**C23/67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F.H. Chowdhury, A.K. Jeeawon, Mrs E.M. Kirby-Green and S.M. Prochak (MBE).

**C23/68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

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

Barnes, J     Agenda Items 7 and 8 – Other Registerable Interest as Chair of Etchingam Parish Council.

Burton        Agenda Items 7 and 8 – Other Registerable Interest as a Member of Battle Town Council and a Member of its Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Byrne         Agenda Items 7 and 8 – Other Registerable Interest as an elected Member of Bexhill Town Council.

Clark          Agenda Items 7 and 8 – Other Registerable Interest as an elected Member of East Sussex County Council.

Coupar	Agenda Items 7 and 8 – Other Registerable Interest as a Member of Sedlescombe and Westfield Parish Councils.
Creaser	Agenda Items 7 and 8 – Other Registerable Interest as a Member of Rye Town Council.
Drayson	Agenda Items 7 and 8 – Other Registerable Interest as an elected Member of Bexhill Town Council and a Member of its Finance and General Purposes Committee.
Field	Agenda Items 7 and 8 – Other Registerable Interest as an elected Member of East Sussex County Council.
Maynard	Agenda Items 7 and 8 – Other Registerable Interest as an elected Member of East Sussex County Council.
Timpe	Agenda Items 7 and 8 – Other Registerable Interest as an elected Member of Bexhill Town Council and a Member of its Finance Committee.
Winter	Agenda Items 7 and 8 – Other Registerable Interest as an elected Member of Bexhill Town Council and a Member of its Finance and General Purposes Committee.

C23/69. **CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chair made the following announcements:

- There had not been as many invitations to attend events and functions in January and February compared to November and December 2023.
- As Chairman she tried to attend every meeting and since January she had sat in on several informal briefings and attended planning committee meetings.
- In January, the Chair and Vice-Chair hosted a reception for all officers to say thank you for their hard work. This included members of Customer Services, Democratic Services, IT, Housing and Homelessness, and Planning as well as members of the Senior Leadership Team. The Chair was introduced to the Council's new Chief Financial Officer, Andrew Vallance, and looked forward to working with him.
- Talking to the Housing and Homelessness Team resulted in an invitation to visit and sit in their office to listen to calls and begin to understand the width and breadth and complexity of cases they deal with on a daily basis.
- On Wednesday 7 February, the Chair spent several hours at the Town Hall with the Customer Service Team, both in the reception and in the call centre. The Chair was struck by the compassion of the staff in dealing with a wide variety of calls. Juggling two screens with many tabs open they were able to answer most enquiries

without having to forward the resident to a new department, thus honouring the “Tell it Once” strategy discussed at the Anti-Poverty strategy meeting that the Alliance worked on in the last administration.

- The Chair congratulated everyone she met for the great job they do that really made a difference to residents. The Chair would be returning to the Housing and Homelessness department and in addition spending time in the planning department. The Chair commended all Councillors whether they had been in office for 10 months or 10 years or longer to follow her lead, as the staff really appreciated it.
- On 3 February, the Chair and Vice-Chair attended a concert at St Barnabas church to hear the Premiere of Iseult, written by local musical director Kenneth Roberts. It told the story of forbidden love between Princess Iseult of Ireland and Tristan of Lothian.
- On Friday 15 February, the Chair enjoyed a morning at Little Gate Farm, shown around by their Chief Executive Officer, Andrea Randall Smith, where the Chair learnt about the ethos behind the project. It helped that the day was sunny and warm, but everyone was happy in what they were doing, and the Chair commended the staff there for their incredible passion for those in need of their support.
- On Saturday 17 February, the Chair was invited to open the Strandliners event held in Rye and thanked their members for continuing to clear stretches of our river. There were many community and voluntary groups all working together to benefit the ecology of our district; many expressed their gratitude for this Council’s grant support.
- The Chair advised of the sad and unexpected passing of former Councillor Eric Armstrong early in the new year. Eric Armstrong had served on the Council between 2003 and 2007 representing Bexhill Old Town Ward. During that time, he served on the Licensing and General Purposes and Scrutiny Committees, as well as being Bexhill Town Mayor for the Bexhill Charter Trustees in 2006-2007.

C23/70. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

1. Pursuant to Paragraph 11 of the Council Procedure Rules the following question was put by Mr Bernard Brown and answered by Councillor Oliver.

**Question:** All external work was reported to have been stopped on the Town Hall Development Project by December 2022. Since that date a further £130,000 is reported to have been spent. What has this money been spent on? Who authorised the expenditure? Where and when was this extra expenditure approved by elected Members? Where in any Council minutes can the decision to authorise such an increase be found?

**Answer:** This scheme is currently being reviewed alongside a more fundamental review of the larger projects within the capital programme, and an options paper will be coming forward to Cabinet for consideration this year.

This review has required further expenditure to enable officers to progress different options for consideration by Members with additional costs incurred in relation to consultancy and architects' fees, which will have been authorised by various officers.

The budget provision of £856,000 was recommended for approval by Cabinet in July 2023 as part of the 2022/23 outturn report, the minutes for which can be found here.

**Supplementary Oral Question:** I thank the Leader for his reply. In December 2022 he told this Chamber no further work on the Town Hall Project was taking place. Had this been true with no actual outcome, the expenditure to date would have had to have been written off against revenue and only creative accounting would prevent that. The last paragraph of today's answer says the budget provision of £856,000 was recommended for approval by Cabinet in July 2023. The only reference to this can be found on page 13 of the report to Cabinet in the midst of Appendix B. Nowhere else has the project been mentioned by name since 2022. Appendix B shows a total actual spend of £856,000 with a prior year spend of £303,000 and an actual spend by March 2023 of £553,000. All three months before the recommendation to Cabinet. No budget has ever been recommended for this amount. You cannot create a budget after the money has been spent, at least not in the real world. Members have never authorised this expenditure. Would it not be appropriate to at least say sorry to the residents and be in the public interest to hold those responsible for this incredible waste of money and unapproved expenditure to account?

**Answer:** I do not totally agree with your comments with regard to making an apology or otherwise, but we are in a situation where we reviewed this particular project and it went through the Senior Leadership Team in order that we may move forward and, if so, on their authorisation these additional funds were committed.

## C23/71. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

1. Pursuant to Paragraph 12 of the Council Procedure Rules the following question was put by Councillor Ganly and answered by Councillor Oliver.

**Question:** Agenda Item 8. Page 24 b/ Car park income. This states that the 2023/24 budget currently assumes gross income of £2.5m from all car parking related fees and charges.

On what is this money spent?

**Answer:** The Council's total cost of services is around £15m net, however that is made up of £47m gross expenditure offset by £32m

gross income, which includes fees and charges. The net figure of £15m remaining is then covered by the Council's other income such as council tax, business rates, Government grant and reserves to balance the budget.

The gross income figure for car parks for 2024/25 is £2.5m, however the gross expenditure is £600,000 so that gives a net income figure of £1.9m, this balance is then used to support all Council services in the same way that other income is and is not ring fenced for any particular purpose or area any more than council tax or business rates are.

**Supplementary Oral Question:** In that case surely you are breaking the law because, as I understand it, the law requires that money should be spent on car parks and associated areas and not on other matters.

**Answer:** I am not aware of that - I will get clarification on that for you.

**C23/72. REPORT OF THE CABINET ON MATTERS FOR DETERMINATION BY COUNCIL**

1. It was moved by Councillor Oliver and seconded that the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5 February 2024, as set out in the Agenda, with the exception of Minute CB23/61 which would be considered at Agenda Item 8 be approved and adopted.
2. The Chair of the Council having called over the reports, no minutes were reserved for discussion.
3. On the Motion of the Chair of the Council, duly seconded, the Council approved and adopted the following reports:

CB23/62 - New Housing Allocations Policy

CB23/63 - Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring as at Quarter 3 – 2023/24

CB23/64 - Members Allowance Scheme 2024-2027

**C23/73. BUDGET 2024/25**

**CB23/61 – DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25**

It was moved by Councillor Oliver, seconded and agreed that Council Procedure Rules 15.4 (content and length of speeches) and 15.5 (when a Member may speak again) be waived for the duration of this item.

It was moved by Councillor Oliver and seconded by Councillor Bayliss that the formal Council Tax Resolution at Appendix A to the report and Minute CB23/61 from the Cabinet meeting held on 5 February 2024 be approved and adopted.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.5(b) a vote by roll call in respect of recommendation 5) of CB23/61 regarding the Council Tax Reduction Scheme was taken, as follows:

**FOR the Motion (22):** Bayliss, Burton, Byrne, Coleman, Mrs Cook, Coupar, Creaser, Delany, Drayson, Gray, Hayward, Killeen, Legg, McCourt, McGurk, Mier, Oliver, Pearce, Rathbone Ariel, Stanger, Thomas and Timpe.

**AGAINST the Motion (9):** J. Barnes, Mrs. Barnes, Biggs, Ganly, Gordon, Grohne, Hacking, Osborne and Winter.

The Motion being put forward was declared **CARRIED**.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.5(b) a vote by roll call in respect of recommendations 1) to 7), excluding 5) of CB23/61 was taken, as follows:

**FOR the Motion (24):** Bayliss, Burton, Byrne, Clark, Coleman, Mrs Cook, Coupar, Creaser, Delany, Drayson, Field, Gray, Hayward, Killeen, Legg, McCourt, McGurk, Mier, Oliver, Pearce, Rathbone Ariel, Stanger, Thomas and Timpe.

**AGAINST the Motion (10):** J. Barnes, Mrs. Barnes, Biggs, Ganly, Gordon, Grohne, Hacking, Maynard, Osborne and Winter.

The Motion being put forward was declared **CARRIED**.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.5(b) a vote by roll call in respect of recommendations 1) to 3) of the Budget 2024/25 report which included the formal Council Tax Resolution set out Appendix B was taken, as follows:

**FOR the Motion (24):** Bayliss, Burton, Byrne, Clark, Coleman, Mrs Cook, Coupar, Creaser, Delany, Drayson, Field, Gray, Hayward, Killeen, Legg, McCourt, McGurk, Mier, Oliver, Pearce, Rathbone Ariel, Stanger, Thomas and Timpe.

**AGAINST the Motion (10):** J. Barnes, Mrs. Barnes, Biggs, Ganly, Gordon, Grohne, Hacking, Maynard, Osborne and Winter.

The Motion being put forward was declared **CARRIED**.

**RESOLVED:** That CB23/61 from the Cabinet meeting held on 5 February 2024 be approved and adopted; and

- 1) the updated General Fund Summary and movement in reserves be approved as submitted (Appendix A);
- 2) the formal Council Tax Resolution as set out below be approved; and
- 3) the Optimum Level of the General Fund Reserve for 2024/25 to 2027/28 be approved as submitted (Appendix D).

1. (a) That Council approves the Rother District Council General Fund Council Tax Requirement of £8,017,457 for 2024/25 and the resultant Band D tax of £204.54 as set out in this report.
- (b) As per the delegation included within the budget report to Cabinet, the special expenses position has now been reviewed and a provision of £786,630 has been made as detailed within Appendix C. The expenses incurred by the Council, in the sum of £711,556 in respect of Bexhill and £75,074 in respect of Rye, should now be approved as the Special Expenses chargeable to residents of Bexhill and Rye respectively. All other expenses incurred by the Council (excluding Parish Precepts) be approved as general expenditure for the purposes of section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. (This resolution will be reviewed annually).
2. That it be noted, the following amounts for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, made under section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
  - (a) 39,197.50 being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012, as its Council Tax base for the year.
  - (b)

Ashburnham & Penhurst	192.37	Etchingham	433.01	Rye Foreign	156.59
Battle	2,904.96	Ewhurst	558.54	Salehurst & Robertsbridge	1,033.72
Beckley	563.26	Fairlight	910.85	Sedlescombe	678.27
Bexhill	17,332.72	Guestling	643.37	Ticehurst	1,743.25
Bodiam	170.06	Hurst Green	598.65	Udimore	191.69
Brede	868.68	Icklesham	1,248.21	Westfield	1,135.37
Brightling	198.66	Iden	235.04	Whatlington	160.72
Burwash	1,276.43	Mountfield	208.20		
Camber	666.67	Northiam	1,063.51		
Catsfield	387.60	Peasmarsh	509.10		
Crowhurst	378.26	Pett	465.84		
Dallington	173.79	Playden	161.02		
East Guldeford	32.93	Rye	1,916.16		

being the amounts calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25 in accordance with sections 32 to 38 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as amended:

- a. £52,749,160 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act. (this amount is the Council's gross expenditure including the Parish Council Precepts and the Special Expenses for Bexhill and Rye).
- b. -£40,962,254 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
- c. £11,786,906 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 32(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.
- d. £300.71 being the amount at 3(c) divided by the amount at 2 above (Item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
- e. £3,769,450 Being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in section 35(1) of the Act
- f. £204.54 Being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.



g.

**PARISH COUNCIL AREA**

**Band D**

£

Ashburnham & Penhurst	279.92
Battle	368.15
Beckley	248.92
Bexhill	286.74
Bodiam	293.97
Brede	252.53
Brightling	247.13
Burwash	293.22
Camber	299.79
Catsfield	287.10
Crowhurst	297.64
Dallington	267.83
East Guldeford	204.54
Etchingham	393.91
Ewhurst	348.55
Fairlight	308.84
Guestling	220.05
Hurst Green	299.39
Icklesham	338.12
Iden	272.61
Mountfield	262.18
Northiam	310.79
Peasmarsh	277.22
Pett	260.35
Playden	235.59
Rye	374.55
Rye Foreign	220.51
Salehurst	329.61
Sedlescombe	304.28
Ticehurst	295.81
Udimore	241.06
Westfield	302.31
Whatlington	250.93

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

h.

<u>LOCAL TAX AREA</u>	<b>Valuation Bands</b>							
	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ashburnham & Penhurst	186.61	217.72	248.81	279.92	342.12	404.33	466.53	559.84
Battle	245.43	286.34	327.24	368.15	449.96	531.78	613.58	736.30
Beckley	165.95	193.61	221.26	248.92	304.23	359.55	414.87	497.84
Bexhill	191.16	223.03	254.88	286.74	350.45	414.18	477.90	573.48
Bodiam	195.98	228.65	261.30	293.97	359.29	424.63	489.95	587.94
Brede	168.35	196.42	224.47	252.53	308.64	364.77	420.88	505.06
Brightling	164.75	192.22	219.67	247.13	302.04	356.97	411.88	494.26
Burwash	195.48	228.06	260.64	293.22	358.38	423.54	488.70	586.44
Camber	199.86	233.17	266.48	299.79	366.41	433.03	499.65	599.58
Catsfield	191.40	223.30	255.20	287.10	350.90	414.70	478.50	574.20
Crowhurst	198.43	231.50	264.57	297.64	363.78	429.93	496.07	595.28
Dallington East	178.55	208.32	238.07	267.83	327.34	386.87	446.38	535.66
Guldeford	136.36	159.09	181.81	204.54	249.99	295.45	340.90	409.08
Etchingham	262.61	306.38	350.14	393.91	481.44	568.98	656.52	787.82
Ewhurst	232.37	271.10	309.82	348.55	426.00	503.46	580.92	697.10
Fairlight	205.89	240.21	274.52	308.84	377.47	446.11	514.73	617.68
Guestling	146.70	171.15	195.60	220.05	268.95	317.85	366.75	440.10
Hurst Green	199.59	232.86	266.12	299.39	365.92	432.46	498.98	598.78
Icklesham	225.41	262.99	300.55	338.12	413.25	488.40	563.53	676.24
Iden	181.74	212.03	242.32	272.61	333.19	393.77	454.35	545.22
Mountfield	174.79	203.92	233.05	262.18	320.44	378.71	436.97	524.36
Northiam	207.19	241.73	276.25	310.79	379.85	448.92	517.98	621.58
Peasmarsh	184.81	215.62	246.41	277.22	338.82	400.43	462.03	554.44
Pett	173.57	202.50	231.42	260.35	318.20	376.06	433.92	520.70
Playden	157.06	183.24	209.41	235.59	287.94	340.30	392.65	471.18
Rye	249.70	291.32	332.93	374.55	457.78	541.02	624.25	749.10
Rye Foreign	147.01	171.51	196.01	220.51	269.51	318.52	367.52	441.02
Salehurst	219.74	256.37	292.98	329.61	402.85	476.11	549.35	659.22
Sedlescombe	202.85	236.67	270.47	304.28	371.89	439.52	507.13	608.56
Ticehurst	197.21	230.08	262.94	295.81	361.54	427.28	493.02	591.62
Udimore	160.71	187.49	214.27	241.06	294.63	348.20	401.77	482.12
Westfield	201.54	235.13	268.72	302.31	369.49	436.67	503.85	604.62
Whatlington	167.29	195.17	223.05	250.93	306.69	362.46	418.22	501.86

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band "D", calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different Valuation Bands.

4. That the Council notes that for the year 2024/25, East Sussex County Council, the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and the East Sussex Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with section 40 of the Local

Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

<b><u>Precepting Authority</u></b>	<b>Valuation Bands</b>							
	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
East Sussex County Council	1,185.54	1,383.13	1,580.72	1,778.31	2,173.49	2,568.67	2,963.85	3,556.62
- Council Tax	1,014.54	1,183.63	1,352.72	1,521.81	1,859.99	2,198.17	2,536.35	3,043.62
- Social Care Precept	171.00	199.50	228.00	256.50	313.50	370.50	427.50	513.00
Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner	168.61	196.71	224.81	252.91	309.11	365.31	421.52	505.82
East Sussex Fire and Rescue	71.66	83.60	95.55	107.49	131.38	155.26	179.15	214.98

5. That, having calculated the aggregate each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -
6. The Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer be authorised to authenticate and serve all notices etc required in connection with the Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rate.

**Assessment as to whether change in Council Tax is excessive**

7. That the Council's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under section 52B(3) of the Local Government Act 1992.

## Valuation Bands

### LOCAL TAX

<u>AREA</u>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ashburnham								
& Penhurst	1,612.42	1,881.16	2,149.89	2,418.63	2,956.10	3,493.57	4,031.05	4,837.26
Battle	1,671.24	1,949.78	2,228.32	2,506.86	3,063.94	3,621.02	4,178.10	5,013.72
Beckley	1,591.76	1,857.05	2,122.34	2,387.63	2,918.21	3,448.79	3,979.39	4,775.26
Bexhill	1,616.97	1,886.47	2,155.96	2,425.45	2,964.43	3,503.42	4,042.42	4,850.90
Bodiam	1,621.79	1,892.09	2,162.38	2,432.68	2,973.27	3,513.87	4,054.47	4,865.36
Brede	1,594.16	1,859.86	2,125.55	2,391.24	2,922.62	3,454.01	3,985.40	4,782.48
Brightling	1,590.56	1,855.66	2,120.75	2,385.84	2,916.02	3,446.21	3,976.40	4,771.68
Burwash	1,621.29	1,891.50	2,161.72	2,431.93	2,972.36	3,512.78	4,053.22	4,863.86
Camber	1,625.67	1,896.61	2,167.56	2,438.50	2,980.39	3,522.27	4,064.17	4,877.00
Catsfield	1,617.21	1,886.74	2,156.28	2,425.81	2,964.88	3,503.94	4,043.02	4,851.62
Crowhurst	1,624.24	1,894.94	2,165.65	2,436.35	2,977.76	3,519.17	4,060.59	4,872.70
Dallington	1,604.36	1,871.76	2,139.15	2,406.54	2,941.32	3,476.11	4,010.90	4,813.08
East Guldeford	1,562.17	1,822.53	2,082.89	2,343.25	2,863.97	3,384.69	3,905.42	4,686.50
Etchingham	1,688.42	1,969.82	2,251.22	2,532.62	3,095.42	3,658.22	4,221.04	5,065.24
Ewhurst	1,658.18	1,934.54	2,210.90	2,487.26	3,039.98	3,592.70	4,145.44	4,974.52
Fairlight	1,631.70	1,903.65	2,175.60	2,447.55	2,991.45	3,535.35	4,079.25	4,895.10
Guestling	1,572.51	1,834.59	2,096.68	2,358.76	2,882.93	3,407.09	3,931.27	4,717.52
Hurst Green	1,625.40	1,896.30	2,167.20	2,438.10	2,979.90	3,521.70	4,063.50	4,876.20
Icklesham	1,651.22	1,926.43	2,201.63	2,476.83	3,027.23	3,577.64	4,128.05	4,953.66
Iden	1,607.55	1,875.47	2,143.40	2,411.32	2,947.17	3,483.01	4,018.87	4,822.64
Mountfield	1,600.60	1,867.36	2,134.13	2,400.89	2,934.42	3,467.95	4,001.49	4,801.78
Northiam	1,633.00	1,905.17	2,177.33	2,449.50	2,993.83	3,538.16	4,082.50	4,899.00
Peasmarsh	1,610.62	1,879.06	2,147.49	2,415.93	2,952.80	3,489.67	4,026.55	4,831.86
Pett	1,599.38	1,865.94	2,132.50	2,399.06	2,932.18	3,465.30	3,998.44	4,798.12
Playden	1,582.87	1,846.68	2,110.49	2,374.30	2,901.92	3,429.54	3,957.17	4,748.60
Rye	1,675.51	1,954.76	2,234.01	2,513.26	3,071.76	3,630.26	4,188.77	5,026.52
Rye Foreign	1,572.82	1,834.95	2,097.09	2,359.22	2,883.49	3,407.76	3,932.04	4,718.44
Salehurst	1,645.55	1,919.81	2,194.06	2,468.32	3,016.83	3,565.35	4,113.87	4,936.64
Sedlescombe	1,628.66	1,900.11	2,171.55	2,442.99	2,985.87	3,528.76	4,071.65	4,885.98
Ticehurst	1,623.02	1,893.52	2,164.02	2,434.52	2,975.52	3,516.52	4,057.54	4,869.04
Udimore	1,586.52	1,850.93	2,115.35	2,379.77	2,908.61	3,437.44	3,966.29	4,759.54
Westfield	1,627.35	1,898.57	2,169.80	2,441.02	2,983.47	3,525.91	4,068.37	4,882.04
Whatlington	1,593.10	1,858.61	2,124.13	2,389.64	2,920.67	3,451.70	3,982.74	4,779.28

(Following advice from the Monitoring Officer, Councillors Clark, Field and Maynard each reluctantly declared an Other Registerable Interest in this matter as elected Members of East Sussex County Council and in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct left the room during the debate and vote in connection with the Council Tax Reduction Scheme element of the budget setting).

(Councillors Barnes, J, Burton, Byrne, Coupar, Creaser, Drayson, Timpe and Winter each declared an Other Registerable Interest as an elected Member of a Town or Parish Council as detailed at C23/68

above and in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct remained in the room during the debate and vote thereon).

**C23/74. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE ON DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

It was moved by Councillor Oliver and seconded that the report detailing an urgent decision taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on 11 December 2023 be received.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be received.

**C23/75. REPORT OF THE LICENSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Thomas and seconded that the report of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee held on 15 January 2024, be approved and adopted.

**RESOLVED:** That Minute LG23/08 be approved and adopted.

**C23/76. DESIGNATION OF THE SECTION 151 OFFICER (CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER)**

Following the appointment of Andrew Vallance as the Council's new Deputy Chief Executive by the Senior Officer Appointments Panel, it was necessary for full Council to approve Andrew Vallance as the Council's designated Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer). It was noted that Andrew Vallance would take up the position on 8 April 2024.

**RESOLVED:** That Andrew Vallance be designated as the Council's Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) with effect from 8 April 2024.

**C23/77. APPOINTMENT TO THE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to a Member Representative appointment to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee managed by East Sussex County Council, following the resignation of Councillor McGurk who had been appointed at the Annual Council meeting and was no longer able to commit to the Substantive position. Councillor Coupar was appointed as the Substantive Member and as the current Substitute Member, a replacement Substitute Member was also appointed.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Coupar be appointed to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as the Substantive Member and that Councillor McGurk be appointed as the Substitute Member for the remainder of this current term of office, expiring in May 2027 and that attendance thereat be designated an approved duty.

C23/78. **APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE BEXHILL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC**

Consideration was given to the appointment of a Member Representative to Bexhill Festival of Music and to add this body to the list of outside bodies to which formal appointments were made.

**RESOLVED:** That:

- 1) Bexhill Festival of Music be added to the Council's list of outside bodies to which formal appointments are made; and
- 2) Councillor Timpe be appointed as the Council's representative up until the end of the current council term (May 2027) and to designate attendance thereat as an approved duty.

C23/79. **MOTION TO COUNCIL - CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY BILL**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, consideration was given to the Motion moved by Councillor McGurk and seconded by Councillor Gray on the Climate and Ecology Bill.

**RESOLVED:** That the Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED** as follows:

That Rother District Council:

- 1) supports the Climate and Ecology Bill;
- 2) will inform local residents and inform local press/media of this decision;
- 3) will write to Sally Ann Hart and Huw Merriman to inform them that this Motion has been passed, and urge them to sign up to support the CE Bill—or thank them for already doing so; and
- 4) will write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CE Bill, expressing Rother District Council's support ([councils@zerohour.uk](mailto:councils@zerohour.uk)).

C23/80. **NOMINATIONS OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2024/25**

Nominations were received for the appointment of Councillor Thomas as Chair and Councillor Mier for Vice-Chair respectively of the Council for the Council Year 2024/25.

**RESOLVED:** That the names of Councillors Thomas and Mier be presented to the Annual Meeting of the Council for appointment respectively as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council for the Council Year 2024/25.

**CHAIR**

The meeting closed at 8:35pm

