



Council Meeting

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in The Chamber, Pelham House, St Andrew's Lane, Lewes on Wednesday, 25 April 2007 at 2.30pm.

Present:

Councillor M A Pepper (Chair)
Councillors P L Bennett, C P Bishop, S T Bratchie, R C S Brown, M P Chartier, K F F Clark, E N Collict, A M Craven, R T Crocker, J F Daly, K G Davies, S B Davy, A C De Vecchi, D J Fitton, R D Fricker, P F Gardiner, L M Hallett, P R Harper, J M Harrison-Hicks, S I C James, E W Lee, J E Lewry, H B Livings, G Munro, D R Neighbour, C R O'Keeffe, J A Ost, D O Rogers OBE, A L Small, R P Taylor, N R Turner, J H Webber, T A Willis, I P Wilson and R L Worthington

Apologies received:

Councillors N A Commin and D H Mitchell

Minutes

205 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 21 February 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

206 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Wilson declared his non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 6 (Petitions) as he had assisted the petitioner with the petition.

207 To Receive any Announcements From the Chair of the Council, Leader of the Council, Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive

(i) Former Councillor Leslie Whittle

The Chair reported the recent death, on 10 April 2007, of former Councillor Leslie Whittle who had been a Member of the Council from July 1992 to May 2003.

The Council then held a period of silence as a mark of respect for the life of former Councillor Whittle.

(ii) Chair of the Council's Engagements

The Council received the list of the Chair of the Council's engagements carried out since the Meeting of the Council held on 21 February 2007.

208 Receipt of Petitions

- (i) The Chair of the Council received a petition from Councillor Small that contained 58 signatures of constituents in the Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward relating to the unlawful encampment which was located on the former A27 road at Beddingham.

Councillor Small addressed the Council on the subject matter of the petition and the number of signatures.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12(b), the petition would be referred to a future meeting of the Travellers Working Group.

- (ii) The Chair of the Council then received a petition from Councillor Taylor that contained 67 signatures of residents of Chichester Road and Kedale Road, Seaford relating to the Council's decision to allow the road between numbers 66 and 64 Chichester Road to be used as the access road for a new development on the Sapphire Business Park site and the subsequent painting of yellow parking lines along sections of Chichester Road.

Councillor Taylor addressed the Council on the subject matter of the petition and the number of signatures.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12(b), the petition would be referred to a future meeting of the Planning Applications Committee.

- (iii) The Chair of the Council then received a petition from Mr Hockley of Ringmer that contained 11 signatures of residents of Green Close, Ringmer relating to the Council's housing stock in Green Close and the associated Tenancy Agreements with its tenants of such stock.

Mr Hockley addressed the Council on the subject matter of the petition and the number of signatures.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12(b), the petition would be referred to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

209 Written Questions From a Councillor

Councillor Clark asked questions of the Leader of the Council, Councillor De Vecchi, relating to the possible redevelopment site in North Street, Lewes, oral replies to which were given at the meeting by Councillor De Vecchi.

In order to assist councillors with their understanding of those replies, the Head of Democratic Services circulated to all those attending the meeting, copies of two plans which illustrated the site, (copies of which are contained in the Minute Book).

210 Ward Issues

Ward issues were raised by Councillors on the following subjects:

Councillor/WardWard Issue Concerning

Councillor Craven -
Ditchling and
Westmeston Ward.

The lack of space which was available in the
District for natural burials.

Following consideration of the above it was

Resolved:

210.1 That the Director of Planning and Environmental Services be requested to prepare a Report to a future meeting of the Cabinet, or the Safety Testing of Memorials in Cemeteries and Closed Churchyards Sub-Committee, relating to the lack of space which was available in the District for natural burials and whether or not the Council had any suitable land within its property portfolio that could be used for such purpose.

Councillor Taylor -
Seaford Central Ward.

Consideration of the impact, one on the others, of
development at the Sapphire Business Park Site,
Chichester Road, Seaford, the adjoining former gas
works site and the nearby site in Brooklyn Road.

Councillor Davy -
Chailey and
Wivelsfield Ward.

The unacceptable frequency of electricity power
cuts which were experienced by people who lived
in Chailey.

Following consideration of the above it was

Resolved:

210.2 That the Director of Planning and Environmental Services be authorised to write to EDF Energy requesting that organisation to resolve the problems which result in the unacceptable frequency of electricity power cuts in Chailey.

Councillor Davy - Chailey and Wivelsfield Ward. The provision of affordable housing, and properties to rent, for people who came from Chailey in order that they could continue to live in that village.

Councillor Brown - Seaford South Ward. The increasing number of visitors to Seaford who parked their vehicles along the seafront and sleep in them overnight.

During the Council's discussion on the above Ward Issues it was

Resolved:

210.3 That the time allowed for discussion on Ward Issues be extended for a further period of 15 minutes to enable all councillors who wish to raise such Issues at the meeting, sufficient time to do so.

211 A Request From the Cabinet Held on 28 March 2007 and a Recommendation From the Cabinet Held on 17 April 2007

The Chair of the Cabinet, Councillor De Vecchi moved, and Councillor Neighbour seconded, the motion that the recommendation of the Cabinet held on 17 April 2007 contained in Minute 196 relating to the Finance Update, be received and adopted.

The motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and it was

Resolved:

211.1 Accordingly.

Reserved Item**The Health Act 2006 – Smoke-Free Premises and Vehicles**

The Lead Councillor for Staff and Corporate Services, Councillor Rogers moved, and Councillor Neighbour seconded, the motion that:

“The Council work towards the situation that no smoking takes place in any buildings or on any land that it owns or controls, excluding its housing stock; and

That as a further step towards implementing the provisions in the Health Act 2006 relating to smoking in the workplace, the following arrangements be introduced, subject to the normal staff consultation procedures:

- (i) No member of staff may absent themselves from their place of work during working hours for the purpose of taking a smoking break;
- (ii) No councillor may take a smoking break at any time during any Council, Cabinet or Committee meeting, or at any other time whilst on the business of the Council; and
- (iii) No councillor, or member of staff, may smoke in any buildings, or on any land, that the Council owns or controls”.

Prior to the Council’s consideration of the above item, the Lead Councillor for Staff and Corporate Services reported that the issue had been considered by the Employment Committee at its meeting on 23 April 2007. At the request of Councillor Rogers, the Head of Democratic Services circulated to all those attending the meeting, a copy of Minute 24 of that Committee which set out its comments on such matters (a copy of which is contained in the Minute Book).

Councillor O’Keeffe moved, and Councillor Livings seconded, an amendment as follows:

“The Council work towards the situation that no smoking takes place in any buildings or on any land that it owns or controls, excluding its housing stock; and

That as a further step towards implementing the provisions in the Health Act 2006 relating to smoking in the workplace, the Council work towards introducing the following arrangements, subject to the normal staff consultation procedures:

- (i) No member of staff may absent themselves from their place of work during working hours for the purpose of taking a smoking break;
- (ii) No councillor may take a smoking break at any time during any Council, Cabinet or Committee meeting, or at any other time whilst on the business of the Council; and
- (iii) No councillor, or member of staff, may smoke in any buildings, or on any land, that the Council owns or controls”.

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared not Carried.

The motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and it was

Resolved:

211.2 Accordingly.

212 Changes to Constitution – Number of Councillors on Scrutiny and Standards Committees

The Leader of the Council, Councillor De Vecchi moved, and Councillor Neighbour seconded, the motion that:

"The number of councillors on the Scrutiny Committee be increased from five to nine and the number of District councillors on the Standards Committee be reduced from four to three".

Councillor Craven moved, and Councillor Turner seconded, an amendment in respect of its relation to the Scrutiny Committee as follows:

"That the number of councillors on the Scrutiny Committee remain unchanged at five".

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared not Carried.

Councillor Livings moved, and Councillor Brown seconded, an amendment in respect of its relation to the Scrutiny Committee as follows:

"That the number of councillors on the Scrutiny Committee be increased from five to seven".

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared not Carried.

The motion, in respect of its relation to the Scrutiny Committee, was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and it was

Resolved:

212.1 That the number of councillors on the Scrutiny Committee be increased from five to nine.

Councillor Daly moved, and Councillor Taylor seconded, an amendment in respect of its relation to the Standards Committee as follows:

"That the number of District councillors on the Standards Committee be increased from four to five".

The amendment, in respect of its relation to the Standards Committee, was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and it was

Resolved:

212.2 That the number of District councillors on the Standards Committee be increased from four to five.

213 Vote of Thanks

Councillor Turner moved, and Councillor Harrison-Hicks seconded the motion that:

“A vote of thanks be accorded to the Officers for their work throughout the past four years of the Council, and to all those members of the Council who were not standing for re-election at the forthcoming Council elections on 3 May 2007, for their service to the Council throughout their terms of office”.

The motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and it was

Resolved:

213.1 Accordingly.

The meeting ended at 5.06pm.

M A Pepper
Chair