

## Council Meeting

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in The Chamber, Pelham House, St Andrew's Lane, Lewes on Wednesday, 26 September 2007 at 2.50pm.**

### **Present:**

Councillor M P Chartier (Chair)  
Councillors C P Bishop, C A Bowers, S T Bratchie, C J Butler, E N Collicot, M A Cutress, J F Daly, S B Davy, A C De Vecchi, I Eiloart, J H Freeman, P Gander, P F Gardiner, D M Gray, B W Groves, L M Hallett, J M Harrison-Hicks, T M Hawthorne, P A Howson, A T Jones, C S Lambert, J N MacCleary, R Main, R Maskell, K D Mayers, D H Mitchell, I A Nicholson, C R O'Keeffe, J V S Page, R Robertson, D O Rogers OBE, E E J Russell, S Saunders, J Sheppard, C Sugarman, I J White and R L Worthington

### **Apologies Received:**

Councillors R E Allen, P L Bennett and R Sinclair.

### **Minutes**

*(Note: Prior to the commencement of the Meeting, John Magness, Director of Finance and Community Services, gave councillors a presentation on matters relating to Shared Services.)*

#### **89 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 25 July 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **90 Declarations of Interest**

Councillors S B Davy, A C De Vecchi, C R O'Keeffe and S Saunders declared their personal interests, and Councillor D O Rogers declared his non-prejudicial interest, in Agenda Item 10 (Notice of Motion).

**Action**

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

(i) Urgent Item

The Chair reported that he had agreed, in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11 September 2007 relating to:

- (a) Clean and Green Team – Future Service Provision; and
- (b) Homelessness Prevention,

which had been circulated to all members of the Council on 21 September 2007, be considered as matters of urgency under Agenda item 9, in order that the Council could take its decisions based on the most up to date information which was available.

(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 25 July 2007.

(iii) Heritage Open Days

The Chair thanked everyone who had been involved with the recent Heritage Open Days which had been held on 8 and 9 September 2007 during which Lewes House, Lewes and Southover Grange, Lewes, had been open for visits by members of the public.

(iv) Martin Stallard – Assistant Director (Development Control)

The Chair reported that the Council's Assistant Director (Development Control), was recovering from an injury which he had sustained over the previous weekend. The Chair, on behalf of the Council, sent best wishes to Mr Stallard for a full and speedy recovery.

(v) Restructuring of the Minority Group

The Leader of the Minority Group, Councillor J V S Page, reported that, due to work commitments, he had had to stand down as Leader of the Minority Group and that the Group had appointed Councillor I A Nicholson as Leader. Councillor Nicholson's former position as Deputy Leader of the Minority Group was to be filled by Councillor A T Jones. He further reported that he had resigned from his position as a member of the Cabinet and that the Minority Group wished to appoint Councillor J M Harrison-Hicks to replace

him.

Resolved:

**91.1** That the appointment of Councillor Nicholson as Leader of the Minority Group and Councillor Jones as Deputy Leader of the Minority Group, be noted: and

**91.2** That Councillor J M Harrison-Hicks be appointed to serve as a member of the Cabinet in place of Councillor J V S Page.

(vi) Long Service Awards to Officers

The Chair, on behalf of the Council, made Long Service Award presentations to the Head of Business Services, John Clark, and Alison Hall, Scheme Manager of the Council's Sheltered Housing Scheme in Harvard Road, Ringmer, in recognition of them both having completed 25 years service to the Council.

All CMT/  
Ctee.  
Officers/  
Chairman's  
Secretary  
(all to note)  
All CMT/  
Ctee.  
Officers/  
Chairman's  
Secretary  
(all to note)

**92 Ward Issues**

Ward issues were raised by Councillors on the following subjects:

Councillor/Ward

Ward Issue Concerning

Councillor Davy –  
Chailey and  
Wivelsfield Ward.

The provision of a safe crossing for students who need to cross the busy A275 road on their way to and from school at South Chailey.

Councillor Lambert –  
Seaford Central Ward.

The provision of Small Business Rate Relief for small businesses in the District.

DFCS

Councillor Nicholson –  
Seaford East Ward.

The consultation which was currently being undertaken by the Environment Agency with regard to its proposals in respect of the Cuckmere Estuary and the associated planning implications.

DPES

Councillor Main –  
Newhaven Denton  
and Meeching Ward.

The temporary removal of playground equipment from the East Side Recreation Ground, Newhaven, and the provision of a footpath across that land, both of which had been undertaken without the knowledge of Newhaven Town Council.

DFCS

Councillor Main –  
Newhaven Denton  
and Meeching Ward.

The apparent under-use of some of the Council's allotments at East Side, Newhaven, and the suggestion that they be transferred to Newhaven Town Council which had a waiting list of people

DFCS

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
	who wished to be allocated an allotment for renting.	
Councillor Saunders – Newhaven Valley Ward.	The recent receipt of an estimate by Newhaven Town Council for the provision of fencing and a dirt jump course for bicycles at that Council's recreation ground at Lewes Road, Newhaven, for which Lewes District Council was the consultant. He suggested that, in view of the high value of that estimate, the Officers consider revising the specification in order to attract a lower value estimate for such provision.	DFCS
Councillor O'Keeffe – Lewes Priory Ward.	The sweeping of fallen leaves along the path to Winterbourne Hollow, Lewes, and the cutting back of some of the tree branches along that route so as to enable the street lighting to penetrate and illuminate the path during the hours of darkness.	DPES
Councillor O'Keeffe – Lewes Priory Ward.	Some funding which had been donated to facilitate the filling and patching of pot holes in the road surface in Ham Lane, Lewes.	
<b>93</b>	<b>Recommendations From the Cabinet Held on 11 September 2007</b>	
	Councillor Chartier moved, and Councillor Saunders seconded, the motion that the recommendations of the Cabinet held on 11 September 2007 contained in Minutes 78 and 79 relating to:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean and Green Team – Future Service Provision; and</li> <li>• Homelessness Prevention,</li> </ul>	
	be received and adopted.	
	The motion was put to the meeting, <u>Declared Carried</u> , and it was	
	<u>Resolved:</u>	
	<b>93.1</b> Accordingly.	DFCS
<b>94</b>	<b>Notice of Motion</b>	
	The Chair of the Council reported that a Notice of Motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13 by Councillor Davy relating to proposals associated with a campaign to save some of the services which	

were undertaken at the Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor Davy moved, and Councillor Howson seconded, the Notice of Motion as follows:

“That the Council contributes £1,000 to the Save the Princess Royal Campaign, confirming our commitment to the residents of Lewes District.

That the Council is utterly opposed to anything that sets hospital against hospital and that a county-wide campaign is needed if we are to succeed in our efforts to change future downgrading proposals. The geographic nature of East and West Sussex is such as to justify full and adequate **accessible** hospital provision throughout the county”.

Councillor Collict moved, and Councillor De Vecchi seconded, an amendment as follows:

“That the word ‘contributes’ be deleted from the first paragraph and that the words ‘considers through the normal grant application process, a contribution of’ be inserted in its place; and that, with regard to the second paragraph, the words ‘full and adequate’ be deleted and that the words ‘general and specialist’ be inserted after the word ‘accessible’.”

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared Carried.

The substantive motion was put to the meeting and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17 as follows:

For the Substantive Motion:

Councillors Bishop, Bowers, Bratchie, Butler, Chartier, Collict, Cutress, Daly, Davy, De Vecchi, Eiloart, Freeman, Gander, Gardiner, Gray, Groves, Hallett, Harrison-Hicks, Hawthorne, Howson, Jones, Lambert, MacCleary, Main, Maskell, Mayers, Mitchell, Nicholson, O’Keeffe, Page, Robertson, Russell, Saunders, Sheppard, Sugarman, White and Worthington (37).

Abstention:

Councillor D O Rogers (1).

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

Resolved:

**94.1** Accordingly.

*(Note: Councillor Davy declared a personal interest in this item and took part in the consideration, discussion and voting thereon.*

*Councillors De Vecchi, O’Keeffe and Saunders declared their personal interests in this item as members of their families had, in the past, received*

DPES

*treatment at the Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath and, therefore, took part in the consideration, discussion and voting thereon.*

*Councillor Rogers declared his non-prejudicial interest in this item as a member of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and, therefore, took no part in the consideration and discussion thereon and abstained from voting thereon.)*

**95 Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2006/07 and Work Programme 2007/08**

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Russell moved, and Councillor Howson seconded, the motion that the recommendation contained in Report No 180/07 relating to the Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2006/07 and Work Programme 2007/08, be approved.

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

Resolved:

**95.1** Accordingly.

**96 Change in Composition of the Liberal Democrat Group**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor De Vecchi moved, and Councillor MacCleary seconded, the motion that the recommendations contained in Report No 181/07 relating to the Change in Composition of the Liberal Democrat Group, be approved.

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

Resolved:

**96.1** Accordingly.

David  
Feintuck  
(Scrutiny  
Secretary)

HDS -  
CMT (to  
note)

The meeting ended at 3.55 pm.

M P Chartier  
Chair