



Meeting of the Council

Minutes of a **Meeting of the Council** held in **The Council Chamber, County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes** on **Thursday, 21 July 2016** at 6.00pm

Present:

Councillor S Gauntlett (Vice-Chair)

Councillors S Adeniji; G Amy; S Barnes; W Botting; J Carr; J Carter; S Catlin; M Chartier; S Davy; W Elliott; P Franklin; P Gander; J Harrison-Hicks; O Honeyman; V Ient; T Jones; I Linington; R Maskell; E Merry; S Murray; D Neave; T Nicholson; R O'Keeffe; S Osborne; J Peterson; T Rowell; S Saunders; J Sheppard; A Smith; R Turner and L Wallraven.

Apologies received:

Councillors N Enever; P Gardiner; B Giles; A Lambert; A Loraine; R Robertson and C Sugarman.

Minutes

17 Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 11 May 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chair.

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

(i) Urgent Item

Action

The Vice-Chair advised that he had agreed that, in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, a Notice of Motion that had been received from Councillor Nicholson relating to the reduction in train services between Lewes, Newhaven and Seaford, and on the remaining routes from Lewes, which had been circulated to all Members of the Council on 20 July 2016, be considered as a matter of urgency under Agenda Item No 5 at the meeting in order that discussion and any subsequent decisions thereon could be taken based on the most recent information which was available. Copies of the Notice of Motion were circulated to Councillors at the meeting and made available to the public attending the meeting (a copy of which is contained in the Minute Book).

(ii) Chair of the Council's Engagements

The Council received the list of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council's engagements carried out since the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 11 May 2016.

(iii) Councillor Will Elliott

The Leader of the Council congratulated Councillor Will Elliott on his recent success on being elected to the Council by winning the Lewes Bridge by-election and welcomed him to his first meeting of the Council.

(iv) Long Service Award to an Officer – Jo Baksi (Web Services Manager)

The Vice-Chair, on behalf of the Council, made a Long Service Award presentation to Jo Baksi, the Council's Web Services Manager, who had begun working as an E-Projects Officer, in recognition of her having completed 25 years service to the Council.

19 Urgent Items

The Vice-Chair reported that a Notice of Motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 14 by Councillor Nicholson which related to the reduction in train services between Lewes, Newhaven and Seaford, and on the remaining routes from Lewes. Copies of the Notice of Motion were circulated to Councillors at the meeting and made available to the public attending the meeting (a copy of which is contained in the Minute Book).

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 and following a debate at the meeting, Councillor Nicholson moved, and Councillor Peterson seconded, a revised version of the Notice of Motion to that which was circulated at the meeting as follows:

“That this Council deplores the reduction in train services between Lewes, Newhaven and Seaford, and on the remaining routes from

Lewes, and demands that a full service on each of the routes be reinstated immediately; that the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services, be authorised to send a suitable letter in respect thereof to the Secretary of State for Transport and Southern Railway about the current lack of service provision and that the political group leaders of East Sussex County Council be invited to co-sign those letters; and that letters also be sent to the two Members of Parliament that represent constituents in the Lewes District; the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union; and the Mayor's of Lewes, Newhaven and Seaford, seeking that they use their influence to support the District Council in securing a return to full rail service provision.”.

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

Resolved:

19.1 Accordingly.

ADLDS/
M
Robertson

20 Written Questions from Councillors

Councillor lent asked questions of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Smith, relating to the effect of the dispute that existed between the local train operator, Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR), and the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union, and to the removal and termination of GTR's franchise, copies of which were circulated to Councillors at the meeting and made available to the public attending the meeting (a copy of which is contained in the Minute Book).

Oral replies to the questions were given at the meeting by Councillor Smith.

(NB In giving his replies to the questions, Councillor Smith indicated that he was happy to write to The Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling MP, in order to outline the Council's views on the matters).

M
Robertson

21 Questions to the Leader of the Council

Questioner

Question/Response

Councillor
Murray

Question:

Councillor Murray was sure that the Leader of the Council was aware of the recently reported rise in racist and xenophobic incidents and hate crimes and that he would agree that everyone had a duty to stand up and stamp out racism and xenophobia. Councillor Murray hoped that the Leader of the Council would publicly condemn any such attacks. Councillor Murray wished to know what steps the Council would take to tackle any such racist, xenophobic and criminal behaviour in the district.

QuestionerQuestion/Response

Furthermore, Councillor Murray asked if it was possible for the Leader of the Council and the Council as a whole to issue a statement along the following lines:

“We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. Our council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

We will work to ensure that local bodies and programmes have the support and resources they need to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia.

We reassure all people living in this area that they are valued members of our community.”

Joint response (by Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council; and Councillor Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners):

Councillor Smith reported that the Council had discussed the above matter with the Sussex Police District Commander for the Lewes District area namely Rob Leet.

Councillor Nicholson, Chair of the Community Safety Partnership, indicated that he endorsed the sentiment of Councillor Murray’s question and that such crimes should not be tolerated. He reported that the level of such reported incidents in the District was low and that there had not been an increase in those reported crimes. Sussex Police had a Hate Crime Officer who was employed specifically to deal with such matters. However, whilst the Council condemned crimes that related to racism, xenophobia and hate, such matters were for the Police to enforce, not the Council.

Councillor Nicholson further reported that, in 2015, Sussex Police had launched an application for use with mobile telephones which made it easier for people to report such crimes.

22 Ward Issues

Ward issues were raised by Councillors on the following subjects:

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Catlin – Lewes Priory Ward	Constituents had complained that on arrival at Lewes Cemetery they had been unable to park their vehicles because of the large number of cars that were already parked there whilst, at the same time,	

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
	<p>there was no-one at the cemetery.</p> <p>Councillor Catlin understood from East Sussex County Council that the Council had asked for there to be a soft touch approach to parking at the Cemetery. However, it appeared to Councillor Catlin that the lax enforcement of parking restrictions was being abused.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That a purge be undertaken by having a check, every four hours for two weeks, on unauthorised vehicles that were parked at the Cemetery and that the matter must be reviewed.</p> <p><i>(NB In response to the above Ward issue, the Leader of the Council reported that the Council would discuss the matter with East Sussex County Council which was responsible for enforcing the car parking regime at the Cemetery with the aim of seeking a solution to such a sensitive issue without upsetting grieving mourners who had legitimately parked their vehicles in the Cemetery car park).</i></p>	DCE
Councillor lent – Kingston Ward	<p>During 2015 and 2016 Highways England had been repairing the footway bridge between the two parts of Falmer village above the A27 trunk road. Such repairs had included putting in a pedestrian slope and steps to the bus stop on the A27.</p> <p>The previous layby for the bus stop was quite small and Councillor lent and others had thought that when the barriers and screens were removed there would be a safer pull in and pull out for the buses. Sadly, that had not been the case and the existing bus stop had simply been replaced roughly on its existing dimensions.</p> <p>It appeared that the bus company had objected to using the new bus layby which simply replicated the very tight 'pull in' of the old bus layby that was built over forty years ago in the 1970s. Therefore the new bus stop had been closed leaving villagers with a long walking detour to catch the bus.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Chair or Leader of the Council write to Highways England at their south-eastern headquarters in Guildford asking it to make the rectification works a very high priority so that the bus stop could be brought back into use as soon as</p>	C Hanlon

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
	possible.	
Councillor Ient – Kingston Ward	<p>There was a window of opportunity this year to get funding for both capital and revenue projects in respect of walking and cycling.</p> <p>In the Council's area, the C7 Road between Lewes and Newhaven was in urgent need of both revenue and capital funding to improve access and safety for walking and cycling to the villages and to the main urban centres of Lewes and Newhaven.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council immediately contact East Sussex County Council to request it to submit a capital and revenue funding proposal for the C7 Road as applications for capital projects to support walking and cycling needed to be submitted by 28 July 2016.</p> <p><i>(NB Subsequent to the meeting, a suitable request was sent to Officers at East Sussex County Council on the morning of Friday, 22 July 2016).</i></p>	DCE
Councillor Adeniji – Seaford South Ward	<p>The Council had erected a sign on Seaford seafront, by the Martello Tower, which indicated that overnight parking in the vicinity was not permitted. However, during the summer months, people arrived in their mobile homes and stayed overnight in the area. Sometimes visitors camped in the area for up to a week at a time and, in doing so, often left waste materials on the side of the road which Seaford Town Council needed to clear away.</p> <p>Councillor Adeniji had contacted the Council and East Sussex County Council and had been told that it was difficult to enforce the conditions of the sign as it was only possible to do so by sending an enforcement Officer to the area during unsocial hours.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council either arrange for the sign to be removed as the conditions thereon were not being enforced; or that it contact East Sussex County Council, which was responsible for such enforcement, in order to request that the conditions</p>	DCE

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
	be enforced in order to prevent overnight parking in the vicinity.	
Councillor Saunders – Newhaven Valley Ward	<p>Newhaven residents were concerned that the Council had not confirmed that Meeching Down had been devolved to Newhaven Town Council.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council expedite the transfer of Meeching Down in its entirety to Newhaven Town Council so as to ensure that the well-loved open space was able to be enjoyed in perpetuity by Newhaven residents, with the added assurances of the robust covenants that had been suggested by the former Officers who had dealt with the original proposals.</p>	DCE
Councillor Saunders – Newhaven Valley Ward	<p>The announcement which related to the withdrawal of the Crown Post Office in Newhaven.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council write to the Post Office in support of Newhaven Town Council's letter which expressed that Town Council's frustration in respect of the withdrawal of the Crown Post Office.</p>	DRP
Councillor Carr – Newhaven Valley Ward	<p>Councillor Carr welcomed the news that the Council had recently taken over the lease of Newhaven Square, Newhaven, and had plans for the redevelopment of the area. However, both Councillor Carr and Councillor Saunders, who represented Newhaven Valley Ward, were not being kept informed about the plans for the development of the area. The lack of information from the Council had led to some rumours circulating in Newhaven regarding what was happening and which companies were proposing to have a presence in Newhaven.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That monthly update meetings be held between the relevant Council Officers and Councillor Carr in order that she, and Councillor Saunders, could be kept informed about issues that related to Newhaven Square and other issues that affected Newhaven such as devolution and the proposed development of the Robinson Road site and other development sites that were located in Newhaven.</p>	DRP

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Carr – Newhaven Valley Ward	<p>There was a Council sign located at the Robinson Road entrance to Riverside Park, Newhaven, which indicated that no cycling was permitted in the Park.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council arrange for its sign to be removed in order to encourage cycling within Riverside Park.</p>	DRP
Councillor Gauntlett – Seaford Central Ward	<p>Brooklyn Road in Seaford was flooded, yet again, in the flash flooding on 17 June 2016.</p> <p>The resulting overflow from the drainage system of water and sewage not only polluted the road and gardens but came up through the toilets and sinks. It also displaced rats which were seen at the same time.</p> <p>Southern Water had an emergency pump which was designed to switch on automatically when the drains were full but it had failed yet again.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council seek written assurance from Southern Water that the pump would be repaired or replaced and when that would happen. As residents suspected that the drainage pipes contained many years build- up of silt, that the Council seek further assurance that the pipes were either fit for purpose or would be cleaned. A substantial development was being built on the Old House Depository site at the Brooklyn Road /Claremont Road junction and the constructors had been observed hosing debris into the drainage system which had the potential to make the problem worse.</p> <p>Furthermore, that the Council request assurances that the building developments on the Newlands School site in Seaford East Ward and the Caffyns site in Seaford Central Ward had been factored into the overall capacity of the Seaford water/waste disposal system and that it would function without flooding.</p> <p>The above was necessary in order to prevent the repeated misery that the residents of Brooklyn Road continued to experience.</p>	DSD
Councillor Peterson – Seaford East Ward	<p>That, with regard to the water and sewage flooding issues as referred to in Councillor Gauntlett's Ward Issue above, it appeared that Southern Water might be using out of date maps of the sewage pipe system that existed in Seaford which, if that was the case,</p>	

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
	<p>might be causing problems with flooding in that town.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council put pressure on Southern Water to provide up to date maps of the sewage pipe system in Seaford in order that Seaford residents could see them and be assured that Southern Water was working in accordance with them.</p>	DSD

23 Recommendations from Cabinet

Unreserved Items

The Vice-Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Gander seconded, the motion that the recommendations of Cabinet held on 4 July 2016 contained in Minute 8 relating to the Finance Update – Performance Report 2015/2016; Minute 10 relating to the Adoption ‘Making’ of the Hamsey Neighbourhood Plan; and Minute 11 relating to the Community Infrastructure Levy Instalments Policy Revision, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

23.1 Accordingly.

DCS/
DBSD

Reserved Item

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Merry seconded, the motion that the recommendation of the Special Meeting of the Cabinet held on 25 May 2016 in respect of Minute 2 relating to “Stronger Together” Joint Transformation Programme Business Case and Implementation, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

23.2 Accordingly.

CE/
SHPPT

24 Appointment of Co-opted, Non-voting Town/Parish Council Members to the Audit and Standards Committee for Standards Matters Only

Resolved:

- 24.1** That it be noted that the Sussex and Surrey Associations of Local Councils had appointed the following three Councillors to serve as co-opted, non-voting Town/Parish Council Members on the Audit and Standards Committee for Standards matters only:

Councillor Nick Berryman (Newick Parish Council);

Councillor Johnny Denis (Glynde and Beddingham Parish Council and Ringmer Parish Council); and

Councillor Penny Lower (Seaford Town Council).

HDS (J
Gavigan)

The meeting ended at 7.20pm.

S Gauntlett
Vice-Chair