



Meeting of the Council

Minutes of the **Meeting of the Council** held in **The Council Chamber, County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes** on **Monday, 17 July 2017** at 6.00pm

Present:

Councillor S Gauntlett (Chair)

Councillors G Amy; L Boorman; W Botting; B Bovington; J Carr; J Carter; S Catlin; M Chartier; S Davy; N Enever; W Elliott; P Franklin; P Gardiner; J Harrison-Hicks; O Honeyman; T Jones; I Linington; A Loraine; R Maskell; E Merry; S Murray; D Neave; T Nicholson; R O'Keeffe; R Robertson; T Rowell; S Saunders; J Sheppard; A Smith; R Turner; and L Wallraven.

Apologies received:

Councillors S Barnes; B Giles; V Ient; A Lambert; S Osborne; J Peterson; and C Sugarman.

Minutes

Action

14 Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 10 May 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

15 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Robertson declared his personal, non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 8 (Response to Petition – A259).

Councillor Carr declared her personal, non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 11 (Ward Issues).

16 To Receive any Announcements From the Chair of the Council, Leader of the Council, Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive**(i) Councillor Paul Gander**

It was reported that Councillor Paul Gander had sadly passed away on 7 June 2017 and that his funeral had been held at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Ringmer, on 13 July which was attended by many people including several councillors.

The Council then stood for a minutes' silence as a mark of respect for Councillor Gander and so that those attending the Meeting could reflect on his life. Following the silence, the Chair of the Council read the words of a poem by Christina Rossetti which had been read at the end of Councillor Gander's funeral service.

(ii) Chair of the Council's Engagements

The Council received the list of the Chair of the Council's engagements carried out since the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 10 May 2017.

(iii) Councillor Liz Boorman

The Leader of the Council, on behalf of the Council, welcomed Councillor Liz Boorman to her first Meeting of the Council following her recent election thereto at the Seaford West by-election.

17 Response to Petition – A259

At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 10 May 2017, Mr Vivian Carrick and Councillor Enever had presented a petition which related to matters that were associated with congestion on the A259 South Coast Road. The petition was presented on behalf of Peacehaven Focus Group and the resident's associations of Telscombe Cliffs, Saltdean and Rottingdean. It had also been presented to Brighton and Hove City Council and, at that time, was also scheduled to be presented to East Sussex County Council. As the petition had contained in excess of 1500 signatures, it formed the basis of a Report to this Meeting. At the invitation of the Chair of the Council, Mr Carrick reminded the Council of the petition and the number of signatures.

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Councillor Jones moved, and Councillor Smith seconded, the motion that the recommendations contained in Report No 107/17 relating to the response to the petition that was presented to the Council at its Annual Meeting on 10 May 2017 in respect of matters that were associated with congestion on the A259 South Coast Road, be received and adopted.

Councillor O’Keeffe moved, and Councillor Catlin seconded, an amendment to Recommendation No 2 as follows:

“To continue to work in close partnership with East Sussex County Council, Brighton and Hove City Council and all relevant Town and Parish Councils, to fully address the current situation with regards to the Air Quality Management Areas at Newhaven and Rottingdean, taking into account peak flow circumstances and the impact of future housing development on the capacity and operation of the A259 between Newhaven and Brighton, these actions to include referral to Scrutiny and the production of any necessary documents and reports.”

The amendment was put to the meeting and Declared Carried.

Councillor Neave moved, and Councillor Botting seconded, an amendment to Councillor O’Keeffe’s amendment as follows:

“.....Town and Parish Councils, and the Residents’ Associations and the consultant, Rob Shepherd, to fully address.....”

Councillor Neave’s amendment was put to the meeting and Declared not Carried.

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

Resolved:

17.1 Accordingly.

(Note: Councillor Robertson declared his personal, non-prejudicial interest in this item as he had signed the petition referred to above. However, he was able to take part in the consideration, discussion and voting in respect of the response to the petition).

DRP/
DSD/
ADLDS
(Scrutiny
Officer)

18 Questions to the Leader of the Council

<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Question/Response</u>
Councillor Rowell	<p><u>Question:</u> Air quality was a serious concern in the United Kingdom and the Government had been told by the High Court to produce new improved plans to show how it was going to comply with legal limits of air pollution in the shortest time possible.</p> <p>In September 2016, Report No 121/16 to the Cabinet undertook to review the Lewes Air Quality Action Plan of</p>

<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Question/Response</u>	
	2009 by the end of 2016.	
	Would the Leader of the Council ensure that the review was undertaken as soon as possible and at the latest by the end of September 2017?	
	<u>Response (by Councillor Linington, Cabinet Member for Environmental Impact):</u>	
	Officers were working closely with Planners and the South Downs National Park to ensure that the North Street quarter project in Lewes had little or no impact on the air quality of Lewes.	DSD
	Stakeholder meetings had taken place and the revised Air Quality Action Plan was scheduled to be out in March 2018. The Review could not be produced before then due to additional modelling that was required which included:	DSD
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantifying the source contributions/apportionment of pollutants (eg from heavy goods vehicles, buses, taxis, vans etc) – once the source of the problem had been identified, it was then possible to target measures at those particular vehicles; Quantifying the impacts of any proposed measures; Quantifying the outcomes of the proposed measures; Modelling of traffic data such as traffic flows and traffic growth, particularly over the next 5 years; and The North Street Quarter – modelling and projections. 	
	Councillor Linington felt that it was best to take time to produce a good Action Plan rather than to rush its completion by the end of September 2017.	DSD
Councillor Gardiner	<u>Question:</u> Can the Lead Councillor advise on the investigations that the Council had completed since the Grenfell tower disaster, especially on the currency of Fire Risk Assessments carried out by the Council on its own properties, and can the Lead Councillor advise as to when the current Conservative administration intended to implement the proposals for sprinkler systems in all new Council buildings as previously proposed by the Liberal Democrats and as the motion carried at the 16 October 2013 Meeting of the Council?	

<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Question/Response</u>	
	<u>Response (by Councillor Maskell, Cabinet Member for Housing):</u>	
	Councillor Maskell felt that the Council's hearts went out to those who were caught up in the tragic event at Grenfell Tower and reported that the safety of the Council's tenants was of key importance.	DSD
	He reported that there were 125 general needs blocks with communal areas that were subject to Fire Risk Assessment. Additionally, there were eight Sheltered blocks that were subject to such Assessments. The Council had reviewed its accommodation and none of its properties had cladding of the type that would give concern. The majority of the Council's blocks were low level with 2, 3 or 4 stories. The Council had only one five story block and one seven story block.	DSD
	Over the past year the Council had issued new Fire Risk Assessments on 62 general needs blocks and the sheltered accommodation. It had also reviewed all Fire Risk Assessments and had commissioned any necessary work.	DSD
	The Council was also working closely with East Sussex Fire and Rescue, Building Control and the Housing team to review the private sector blocks in the District. Councillor Maskell confirmed that no areas of concern had currently been identified.	DSD
	The Council could see the clear benefits of the use of sprinkler systems and had committed to reviewing the Motion from the 16 October 2013 Meeting of the Council. In doing so, the Council would look to take into account any emerging guidance and lessons learnt from the Grenfell tragedy.	DSD
	Over the past two years the Council had built 22 new affordable homes with communal facilities. Councillor Maskell outlined the fire safety features that had been incorporated into their construction.	DSD
	Following recent events, the Council was exploring what additional actions it could take in relation to fire safety in order to provide peace of mind to those who might be living in self-contained flats with communal entrances. The Council would like to consider all the options including the installation of sprinkler systems in consultation with East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. The Council would seek expert advice from its partners.	DSD
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	The Council would always put the safety of its residents	DSD

<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Question/Response</u>	
	<p>first and would take all necessary steps to ensure that was the case for the homes that it provided directly and for those that it was responsible for regulating.</p> <p><i>(Note: Councillor Smith invited the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council to nominate one of its Members to participate in the review process in respect of the Motion from the 16 October 2013 Meeting of the Council, as referred to above).</i></p>	DSD
Councillor Catlin	<p><u>Question:</u></p> <p>At the December 2016 Meeting of the Council, it had been agreed that the Council write to Southern/GTR about the train service that was provided and the fares that were charged.</p> <p>To date, no report had been received of the letter having been sent or a reply received.</p> <p>Could the Leader of the Council indicate whether or not the letter was sent and, if not, why not?</p> <p><u>Response (by Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council):</u></p> <p>Councillor Smith apologised that the letter had not been sent which was due to the office from which it was to have been sent having been engaged in the early stages of the Council's restructure. However, Councillor Smith undertook to ensure that the letter was subsequently sent.</p>	ADLDS
Councillor Saunders	<p><u>Question:</u></p> <p>With regard to the application for a large Tarmac plant at North Quay, Newhaven, and the potential increase of several hundred lorry movements per week, will the Leader of the Council and his administration be joining with Newhaven Town Council and the residents of Newhaven in condemning the siting of such a facility?</p> <p>Councillor Saunders felt that Newhaven was already suffering from one of the worst air quality figures in the country and the impact of the facility and the high volume of heavy goods vehicles on the local and surrounding areas was something that could not currently be considered. The company had explained that East Sussex County Council had recommended the site as being an ideal, central location for it having won what Councillor Saunders believed was the contract to undertake road repairs for the next five years.</p> <p>The site had been identified in Newhaven's upcoming Neighbourhood Plan as ideal to fulfil the need and aspirations for marine engineering.</p>	

<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Question/Response</u>
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Whilst the Leader of the Council was also a Member of East Sussex County Council, Councillor Saunders hoped that he and his team would act in the best interests and health of the residents of Newhaven.

Response (by Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council):
Councillor Smith said that he would always put the best interests of the District at heart now that he was also a Member of East Sussex County Council.

DRP

He was not aware that Newhaven Town Council felt so strongly about the issue which he had not discussed with the Officers and, therefore, would provide Councillor Saunders with a written reply.

DRP

19 Ward Issues

Ward issues were raised by Councillors on the following subjects, details of which would be reported to the next meeting of the Cabinet:

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Robertson – Peacehaven West Ward	<p>With regard to the Council's car parks and recycling areas.....</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u></p> <p>That, once each year, the Council provide a waste collection skip at its car parks into which residents could be encouraged to put their waste items rather than dumping them in the car parks.</p>	DSD
Councillor Saunders – Newhaven Valley Ward	<p>Residents were concerned at the effect of the potential move of the Crown Post Office in Newhaven High Street to a franchise arrangement in a new newsagents that was based in Newhaven Square.</p> <p>Elsewhere, Dee's Newsagents was a long established newsagents in Newhaven, having been trading for decades.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u></p> <p>What was the Council going to do to support the long established business and mitigate the effect on it by the new premises?</p>	DRP

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Carr – Newhaven Valley Ward	<p>Councillor Carr reported that she was Vice-Chair of the Riverside Park Group in Newhaven which had successfully spearheaded the Council's dog fouling campaign to encourage dog owners to clean-up after their pet had defecated and to put the feces in the dog waste bins that were provided in the Park. However, there was a problem in that the Park's dog waste bins were not emptied sufficiently often.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council arrange for the dog waste bins which were located at Riverside Park, Newhaven, to be added to the Council's regular emptying schedule and that they be emptied at least on a weekly basis.</p>	DSD

(Note: Councillor Carr declared her personal, non-prejudicial interest in this item as she was Vice-Chair of the Riverside Park Group to which she referred in her Ward Issue. However, she was able to take part in the discussion thereon).

20 Urgent Decisions taken by the Cabinet or Cabinet Members

The Chair of the Council reported that no urgent decisions had been taken by the Cabinet or Cabinet Members since the Annual Meeting of the Council on 10 May 2017.

21 Recommendations from Cabinet – 26 June 2017

Unreserved Item

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Smith seconded, the motion that the recommendation of Cabinet held on 26 June 2017 contained in Minute 3 relating to the Finance Update – Performance Report - 2016/2017, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

21.1 Accordingly.

22 Memberships

The Council was invited to note the appointments to the following

DCE

Committee, Advisory Boards and outside bodies:

- Licensing Committee - Councillor L Boorman;
- Community Infrastructure Levy Management Board - Councillor L Boorman;
- Strategic Property Board - Councillors B Giles (Chair), A Smith and S Osborne;
- Wave Leisure Trust Board - Councillor L Boorman; and
- East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Councillor S Murray,

and it was

Resolved:

Accordingly.

ADLDS
(Head of
Dem
Svces)

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

The Council was invited to note 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 Johnny Denis (Glynde and Beddingham Parish Council and Ringmer Parish Council);
- Councillor Penny Lower (Seaford Town Council); and
- Councillor Susan Murray (Lewes Town Council),

and it was

Resolved:

Accordingly.

ADLDS
(Head of
Dem
Svces)

24 Reporting Back on Meetings of Outside Bodies

(a) Councillor Nicholson reported that, on 15 June 2017, he had attended a meeting of the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group to which he had been appointed to be the Council's representative.

At that meeting, an update had been received from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) in respect of future funding which, having been unaltered over the previous five years, would continue on the basis of a new grant agreement which was currently being progressed.

Councillor Nicholson further reported that the merger of the two Community Safety Partnership's was currently the subject of a response from the OPCC.

The Quanta Bar Chart showed that Lewes District was second lowest in total crime in its nationwide group.

(b) Councillor Nicholson also reported that, on 30 June 2017, he had attended a meeting of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel to which he had been appointed by the Council to be one of its representatives.

Following the recent elections to East Sussex County Council, Councillor Bill Bentley of that Council had been elected as Chair of the Panel.

Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (SPCC), Katy Bourne, had attended the meeting and had answered Member's questions. She had advised the Panel that she had agreed to the increased precept to invest in officers and specialist staff in new areas. There would be an extra 52 firearms officers across Surrey and Sussex which involved specialist training that would take about 18 months. The SPCC was scheduled to give a presentation to Members of the Council on matters relating to her work and some of the issues that she was currently dealing with prior to the next Meeting of the Council on Monday, 9 October 2017.

(c) Councillor Jones, who had been appointed to be the Council's representative on the South Downs National Park Authority, reported that the proposed Local Plan for the Park was scheduled to be put forward for consultation in September 2017.

Resolved:

- 24.1** That the verbal Reports by Councillors Nicholson and Jones relating to outside bodies to which they had been appointed by the Council to be its representatives, be received and noted.

The meeting ended at 7.26pm.