

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday, 21 February 2018 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Councillor Pat Hearn (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillors Ballard, Bannister, Belsey, Choudhury, Coles, di Cara, Dow, Freebody, Holt, Jenkins, Mattock, Metcalfe, Miah, Murdoch, Murray, Robinson, Rodohan, Sabri, Shuttleworth, Smart, Swansborough, Taylor, Tester, Tutt, Ungar and Wallis

97 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2017.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2017 were presented and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

98 Declarations of members' interests.

There were none.

99 Mayor's announcements.

The Mayor announced the sad news that Mr Allen Gales had passed away, following which a minute's silence was observed. Mr Gales was well known to longstanding councillor and staff colleagues at Eastbourne Borough Council where he had been Borough Treasurer. He had also served as Board Director of Eastbourne Homes and as an Independent Person for standards matters in recent years.

Since the last Council meeting, the Mayor's engagements and fundraising events for her two chosen charities, Embrace, and Rebourne Corner, included:

- An Exhibition and Sale of Paintings by the Society of Eastbourne Artists at the Town Hall in aid of the Mayor's Charities on 18 and 19 November 2017 The Mayor's Charity volunteers provided refreshments for exhibitors and visitors, helping to raise extra funds in addition to those donated by the Society.
- Eastbourne Lions' annual Swimathon on 18 November 2017. Eastbourne Swimming Club, The Otters and Eastbourne Salvation Army all helped to raise money for the Mayor's Charities.
- Don McPhee and the members of the Mayor's Charity Committee arranged a sell-out evening of Christmas entertainment at Willingdon Golf Club on 23 December 2017.
- A number of Christmas concerts and festive events during December including visiting Eastbourne Rotary's 'Alone at Christmas' lunch on Christmas Day itself with her Consort,

Eastbourne DGH, Eastbourne Fire & Rescue and the Police in Hammonds Drive.

- The first Mayor's Charity Quiz Night of the new year on 19 January 2018, which was attended by well over 100 participants. Councillor Swansborough and his team who were the evening's victors.
- Sussex Schools' 'Rock Challenge' at the Hawth in Crawley on 31 January 2018, as a guest of the local Mayor to support the Eastbourne schools.
- A reception in the Mayor's Parlour on 9 February 2018 for the students of the ABF catering school, from Treviglio in northern Italy. The students have recently completed a project on British food and hospitality, and are developing their skills through work experience in many of Eastbourne's restaurants.

Over the next couple of months, the Mayor's engagements and fundraising events would include:

- A bingo night on 23 February, an Open Mic Night showcasing local talent on 4 March, the Mad Hatter's Tea Party at the West Rocks Hotel on 10 March, and a Sixties Night at the Underground Theatre on 6 April 2018.
- The Mayor was conscious of 2018 being the centenary of the Representation of the Peoples' Act, when for the first time working men and the very first women gained the vote. To mark International Women's Day on 8 March, Eastbourne Soroptimists had organised a Conference taking place at the Town Hall in support of the Mayor's Charities. The day promised to be an informative event, with a number of high profile speakers tackling issues such as human trafficking, girls' education and women in leadership.
- Invitations would soon be sent to Members for the Mayor's Civic Church Service at St Mary's Church, Old Town, on Sunday 15 April at 3pm. The Mayor looked forward to welcoming all comers to this special and inclusive event. Enquiries regarding Mayor's events should be directed to the Mayor's Office.

The Mayor expressed her gratitude for the officer support she had received in her time as Mayor, particularly that of Peter Finnis, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, as this was the final time she would be chairing the Council meeting in her capacity as Mayor.

100 Notification of apologies for absence.

No apologies for absence were received.

101 Public right of address.

Mr Oliver Sterno addressed the meeting under Agenda Item 10(a) regarding plastic free coastlines. Mr Denis Scard addressed the meeting under Agenda Item 10(b) regarding speakers at planning committee.

102 Order of business.

Business proceeded in accordance with the Summons.

103 Council budget and setting of the council tax for 2018/19.

This matter was reported and proposed by Councillor Mattock on behalf of the Cabinet and seconded by Councillor Tutt. The Council considered the reports to Cabinet and also the Cabinet minutes and resolutions from the meeting held on 7 February 2018. The budget proposals were also reported to Scrutiny Committee on 5 February 2018 where no proposals for change were made.

The Council expressed its thanks and appreciation to all officers and in particular the work undertaken by the Chief Finance Officer and his team in the preparation of the draft budget.

Resolved: (By 16 votes to 8 with 3 abstentions) That approval be given to the following:

1. The recommendations as detailed in the reports from the Chief Finance Officer and the Director of Service Delivery to Cabinet on 7 February 2018:
 - (i) The General Fund net expenditure for 2018/19 of £13,496,800 and the growth and savings proposals.
 - (ii) The charge for council tax for Eastbourne Borough Council Band D change to £239.67; an increase of 2.90%.
 - (iii) Housing Revenue Account (HRA) income and expenditure proposals, including revised HRA budget for 2017/18 and the budget for 2018/19, rents and service charges and the arrangements for finalising Eastbourne Homes' management fee.
 - (iv) General Fund capital programme as set out in the report of the Chief Finance Officer.
 - (v) The Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.
2. That consequent upon a General Fund budget of £13,496,800 and other matters, the basic amount (Band D) of Council Tax for the Borough Council's functions will be £239.67 calculated as follows:

	£'000	£'000
Gross Expenditure:		
General Fund		83,675
HRA		15,378
Business Rates payable to Government		12,366
		<u>111,419</u>
Less Income:		
Service Income	(84,444)	
Contribution from Reserves	(1,562)	
Government Formula Grant	(445)	
Other Government Grants	(1,786)	
Business Rates income	(14,769)	
Collection Fund Surplus (Council Tax)	(179)	
		<u>(103,185)</u>
COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT		<u><u>8,234</u></u>
Band 'D' Council Tax		£239.67

The statutory resolutions relating to this matter are given at paragraphs 3 and 4 below.

3. That it be noted that at its meeting on 13 December 2017 the Cabinet (in exercise of powers delegated to them by the Council) delegated the final determination of the Council Tax Base to the Chief Finance Officer. This has been set at an amount of 34,354.40 Band 'D' equivalent properties for the year 2018/19 (Item T in the formula in section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended).
4. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2018/19 as £8,233,700.
5. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended:

(a)	£111,419,500	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
(b)	£103,185,800	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	£8,233,700	being the amount by which the aggregate at 5(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 5(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as

		its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
(d)	£239.67	being the amount at 5(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (4 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

6. To note that East Sussex County Council, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority and Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
7. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2018/19 for each of the categories of dwellings. :

Council Tax Valuation Bands								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	6/9	7/9	8/9	1	11/9	13/9	15/9	2
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Precepting Authorities								
Eastbourne Borough Council	159.78	186.41	213.04	239.67	292.93	346.19	399.45	479.34
East Sussex County Council	928.74	1,083.53	1,238.32	1,393.11	1,702.69	2,012.27	2,321.85	2,786.22
Sussex Police Authority	110.61	129.04	147.48	165.91	202.78	239.65	276.52	331.82
East Sussex Fire Authority	60.67	70.78	80.89	91.00	111.22	131.44	151.67	182.00
Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements	1,259.80	1,469.76	1,679.73	1,889.69	2,309.62	2,729.55	3,149.49	3,779.38

8. That it be determined that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2018/19 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.

NOTE: As the billing authority, the Council has **not** been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2018/19 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.

Named voting record for the resolutions at Item 103 above:

For: Councillors Bannister, Choudhury, Coles, Dow, Holt, Mattock, Miah, Murray, Robinson, Rodohan, Sabri, Shuttleworth, Swansborough, Tester, Tutt and Ungar.

Against: Councillors Belsey, di Cara, Freebody, Jenkins, Metcalfe, Murdoch, Smart and Taylor.

Abstentions: Councillors Ballard, Hearn and Wallis.

104 Calendar of meetings 2018/2019.

Council considered the calendar of meetings for 2018/19. It was proposed by Councillor Tutt, seconded by Councillor Freebody and:

Resolved: (Unanimously) That the Calendar of Meetings 2018/19 be approved, subject to final ratification at the Council's next annual meeting.

105 Community safety partnership action plan.

Councillor Ungar moved and Councillor Bannister seconded that the recommendations of the Cabinet be approved.

Resolved: (Unanimously) That the Community Safety Plan for 2018/19 be approved.

106 Travel policy.

Councillor Sabri moved and Councillor Tutt seconded that the recommendations of the Cabinet be approved.

Resolved: (Unanimously) That the implementation of the Staff Travel Policy be approved.

107 Council licensing policy statement - review of cumulative impact policy, licensing act 2003.

Councillor Tester moved and Councillor Tutt seconded that the recommendations of the Cabinet be approved.

Resolved: (By 18 votes for, 2 against and 7 abstentions) That the current Cumulative Impact Policy be retained without amendment.

108 Treasury management and prudential indicators 2018/19.

Councillor Mattock moved and Councillor Tutt seconded that the recommendations of the Cabinet be approved.

Resolved: (By 17 votes for, 8 against and 2 abstentions) That the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy; the methodology for calculating the minimum revenue provision; the

prudential and treasury indicators; and the specified and non-specified investment categories be approved.

109 Plastic free coastlines.

Councillor Ballard moved and Councillor Dow seconded a notice of motion:

"That this Council welcomes the objectives of the Plastic Free Coastlines campaign, committing to consider the use of appropriate plastic free alternatives wherever possible, and supporting plastic free initiatives within Eastbourne".

Oliver Sterno addressed the Council on the motion.

Resolved: (Unanimously) That this motion be approved.

110 Speakers at planning committee.

Councillor Smart moved and Councillor Freebody seconded a notice of motion:

"We have serious concerns about the undemocratic limitation of speakers at recent planning committee meetings and suggest that procedures are amended accordingly".

Denis Scard addressed the Council on the motion.

Council was advised that the current rules regarding public speakers were in accordance with good practice guidance and designed to ensure demonstrable balance and fairness in respect of both applicants and objectors in determining planning applications.

Resolved: (By 8 votes for, 18 against and 1 abstention) That this motion be lost.

111 Minutes of council bodies.

The minutes of twelve meetings of council bodies from 21 November 2017 to 7 February 2018, as set out in the Summons, were received. Minute 93 of Planning Committee on 23 January 2018 (Former Police Station, Grove Road, Application ID: 171819) was discussed, and Members noted the high targets on the Council to provide housing balanced with the need for parking and infrastructure to support such levels of housing, particularly in the town.

Further to Council Procedure Rule 14.3 it was:

Resolved: (Unanimously) That the minutes of the council bodies as set out in the Summons be accepted.

The meeting closed at 9.12 pm

Councillor Pat Hearn
Mayor, Chairman