

Full Council

Minutes of meeting held in Council Chamber at County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes on 16 July 2018 at 6.00 pm

Present:

Councillor Stephen Gauntlett (Chair)

Councillors Johnny Denis (Vice-Chair), Sam Adeniji, Graham Amy, Nancy Bikson, Liz Boorman, Wayne Botting, Julie Carr, Joanna Carter, Stephen Catlin, Mike Chartier, Sharon Davy, Will Elliott, Nigel Enever, Paul Franklin, Peter Gardiner, Olivia Honeyman, Vic lent, Tom Jones, Isabelle Linington, Ron Maskell, Elayne Merry, Susan Murray, Dave Neave, Tony Nicholson, Ruth O'Keeffe (from minute 26), Sarah Osborne, Julian Peterson, Robbie Robertson, Tony Rowell, Steve Saunders, Jim Sheppard, Andy Smith, Richard Turner and Linda Wallraven

Officers in attendance:

Robert Cottrill (Chief Executive), Catherine Knight (Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services) and Simon Russell (Committee Services Lead)

20 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2 May 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

21 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barnes, Giles, Harrison-Hicks, Lambert and Wallraven.

22 Declarations of interest

None were declared.

23 Announcements

(i) Chair of the Council's engagements

The Council received a list of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council's engagements carried out since the meeting of the Council held on 2 May 2018.

(ii) Alan Osborne

The Chair of the Council made a special announcement to mark the forthcoming retirement of Alan Osborne, the Council's Deputy Chief Executive. The Chair, on behalf of the Council wished him a long and happy retirement.

(iii) Councillor Bikson

The Chair and Councillor Smith welcomed Councillor Nancy Bikson to her first meeting of the Council, following her election at the Chailey and Wivelsfield Ward By-Election on the 12 July 2018.

(iv) Former Councillor Rod Wilson

It was reported that former District Councillor Rod Wilson had sadly passed away. The Council took a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

24 Recommendations from Cabinet

Recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 2 July 2018 relating to:

(a) Minute 7 - Finance update – performance quarter 4 – 2017-2018;

Unreserved item

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Catlin seconded the motion, that the recommendations of Cabinet held on 2 July 2018 contained in minute 7, relating to the finance update for performance quarter 4 - 2017-2018, be received and approved.

The motion was put to the meeting, declared carried and it was:

Resolved:

That the annual treasury management report for 2017/2018 be approved.

(b) Minute 10 – Review of the council plan 2016-2020

Reserved item by Councillor Denis

Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Maskell seconded the motion, that the recommendations of Cabinet held on 2 July 2018 contained in minute 10 relating to the review of the council plan for 2016-2020 be received and approved.

The motion was put to the meeting, declared not carried and it was:

Resolved:

That the council plan contents not be adopted.

(c) Minute 13 – Affordable housing supplementary planning document (SPD)**Unreserved item**

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Catlin seconded the motion, that the recommendations of Cabinet held on 2 July 2018 contained in minute 13 relating to the affordable housing supplementary planning document be received and approved.

The motion was put to the meeting, declared carried and it was:

Resolved:

That the affordable housing supplementary planning document be adopted.

25 Meetings attendance

The Council considered the report of the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services regarding meetings attendance.

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Merry seconded the motion that the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

The motion was put to the meeting, declared carried and it was:

Resolved:

(1) That an extension be granted to allow Councillor Andy Loraine's period of non-attendance at Council meetings to run for a further six months from the date of Council's approval (from 16 July 2018 to 16 January 2019).

(2) That a dispensation be granted to allow any councillor who is unable to attend the full Council meeting on 26 November 2018 an extended attendance exemption until the full Council meeting on 25 February 2019, where this would cause a member to go six months without attending a meeting.

Reason for decisions:

To comply with the Council's legal duties and to allow members to remain qualified as councillors until such time as they are able to attend a meeting of the Council.

26 Memberships

The Council noted the following appointments to the following committees:

- Audit and Standards Committee – Councillor Peterson appointed to vacant Conservative seat. (This is revised from what was originally listed on the agenda).
- Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Smith advised that Councillor Bikson was appointed to the vacant Conservative seat. (This is revised from what was originally listed on the agenda).

27 Appointment of co-opted, non-voting Town/Parish Council Members to the Audit and Standards Committee for Standards Matters Only

The Council noted that the Lewes District Associations of Local Councils have 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 Penny Lower (Seaford Town Council)
- Councillor Fiona Harrison (Kingston Parish Council)
- Councillor Don McBeth (Ditchling Parish Council)

28 Notices of motion

The Chair reported that notices of motions had been submitted under council procedure rule 14 by Councillor Ient.

Councillor Ient moved, and Councillor Osborne seconded, the notice of motion as follows:

1) Renewable Energy Schemes

“That from 1 September 2019 new housing and business/commercial planning applications to Lewes District Council should usually include the provision of a 'renewable energy scheme'; and that any such scheme would not become binding on the applicant unless included by the local planning authority as a condition of any planning permission granted.

That officers:

- Seek to incorporate requirements to this effect in local plan policy, in accordance with planning policy legislation, at the very earliest opportunity, and

- Use best endeavours to ensure that the South Downs National Park Authority does likewise.”

The motion was put to the meeting, declared carried and it was:

Resolved:

Accordingly.

Councillor lent moved, and Councillor Denis seconded, the notice of motion as follows:

(2) New Sites for Air Quality Monitoring Stations

“I propose that the Lewes District Council apply for funding from the government for 2 new air quality monitoring stations. One of these to be sited in the vicinity of Malling Street on the A26 in Lewes. The other to be a mobile station which can be used in key locations where information from NOx tubes is either unavailable or doesn't give the full picture of pollution. This latter portable machine could be used:

- In urban areas on the A259 in such places as Peacehaven and Seaford.
- In rural locations where there is congestion and potentially pollution is occurring. Examples of such rural locations are on the C7 at Piddinghoe and at level crossings like Cooksbridge on the A275.
- On trunk roads (by agreement with Highways England such as the A27 Lewes bypass and on the A27 near Firle.”

The motion (as amended) was put to the meeting, declared carried and it was:

Resolved:

Accordingly.

Councillor lent moved, and Councillor Carr seconded, the notice of motion as follows:

(3) Clean Air Strategy 2018

“That this Council write to the Secretary of State for the Environment and warmly welcome the new strategy and the powers it will give to local authorities to improve air quality. At the same time, we would ask the Secretary of State not to accede to any pressures to relax the 2040 target for removing all petrol and diesel cars and vehicles from the roads of the United Kingdom. Additionally, we would ask the Secretary of State to ensure he provide sufficient funds and powers to allow local authorities to implement the strategy.”

The motion was put to the meeting, declared carried and it was:

Resolved:

Accordingly.

Councillor lent moved, and Councillor Osborne seconded, the notice of motion as follows:

(4) Current funding for dealing with air pollution

“That this Council write to the Secretary of State for the Environment and asks for funding to expand the number of NOx tubes throughout the district especially near schools and to undertake a publicity campaign to help reduce CO2 and other polluting emissions into the atmosphere.”

The motion was put to the meeting, declared carried and it was:

Resolved:

Accordingly.

29 Questions to the Leader of the Council

Questioner	Question
Councillor Catlin	<p>Is the Leader aware that it is presently taking Lewes District Council, 7 weeks from receipt of a Tribunal Appeal request in the benefits section, for that section to actually dispatch it to the tribunal service?</p> <p>Does he share my view that this is unsatisfactory, and how will it be addressed?</p>
	<p>Response (by Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council)</p> <p>Councillor Smith responded that he shared the concerns raised. He advised that staff changes and other factors had contributed to the delay.</p> <p>Currently there were 13 appeals outstanding across Lewes and Eastbourne, 8 of which were over 4 weeks old. It was anticipated that the four week target would be achieved by mid-August. Progress would continue to be monitored.</p>
Councillor Carter	<p>I understand that the business case for the port access road for Newhaven has been finalised by East Sussex County Council, ready for submission to the Department for Transport. However, it seems there</p>

	<p>has been no review of the air quality management plan for Newhaven in the business case, and the District Council does have legal responsibility to ensure air quality targets are met in Newhaven. The principle of a port road was agreed a number of years ago when the air quality in this area was not as bad as it is now. This new road will open up an additional area of vegetated shingle on Newhaven beach for port expansion and industrial development, which will result in more traffic. Would the leader clarify whether or not an air quality review has been done as part of this business case, and if not, write to ESCC to request that a review be done?</p>
	<p>Response (by Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council)</p> <p>Councillor Smith responded that the member of staff from East Sussex County Council with the relevant information was currently unavailable. An answer would be sought from Councillor Smith when the officer returns.</p>
Councillor Osborne	<p>Never in all my years as a Councillor have I had as many complaints as I've had in the last week and over a much longer period of time about the phones not being answered at Lewes District Council.</p> <p>Not only the phones not being answered but then calls get transferred to Eastbourne, and the staff there who are dealing with the overspill unfortunately can't answer questions about the issues, that residents of the Lewes District are raising.</p> <p>I ask the Leader to urgently look and this and provide any resources that are needed to resolve the problem.</p>
	<p>Response (by Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council)</p> <p>Councillor Smith responded that the Council was at the end of a transition period and that hopefully things will start to improve once new staff have been trained.</p>
Councillor Saunders	<p>Referencing the recent Cabinet meeting on the 2 July 2018 and consideration of the report regarding the regeneration of Newhaven Town Centre, I was extremely pleased to see that recommendation of 30 minutes free parking was approved. I was also</p>

	<p>pleased that Councillor Nicholson at the meeting supported the suggestion of 1 hour free parking.</p> <p>I would urge the Leader to revisit this suggestion because I've spoken to a Council officer who said that the financial implications of extending the parking to 1 hour would be minimal, compared to the regeneration prospects of the project.</p> <p>Can you increase that recommendation from 30 minutes to 1 hour free parking and this would be a great help to the regeneration of the town centre?</p>
	<p>Response (by Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council)</p> <p>Councillor Smith responded that it was decided that the issue of free parking in Newhaven would not be considered in isolation and was part of a wider project, including new traffic regulations for enforcement in the high street.</p> <p>The resolution at the meeting on the 2 July was slightly amended from the original officer recommendation to allow free parking of at least 30 minutes, perhaps more depending on officer modelling.</p>

30 Reporting back on meetings of outside bodies

Councillor Nicholson reported back, relating to the work of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel held on 29 June 2018, details of which were contained in the report.

The Council thanked Councillor Nicholson for his written report.

Resolved:

That the written report by Councillor Nicholson be received and noted.

The meeting ended at 7.04 pm

Councillor Stephen Gauntlett (Chair)