



Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 24 February 2010 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Councillor Gregory Szanto (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillors Margaret Bannister, Colin Belsey, David Elkin, Barbara Goodall, Andrew Goodwin, Nigel Goodyear, Jon Harris, Carolyn Heaps, Alex Hough, Sandie Howlett, Rebecca Madell, Graham Marsden, Gill Mattock, Susan Morris, Harun Miah, Mary Pooley, Daniel Purchase, Margaret Salisbury, Barry Taylor, Troy Tester, Mike Thompson, David Tutt, Steve Wallis and Olive Woodall.

59. Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2009 were presented and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

60. Mayoral Announcements.

- 1 The Mayor asked those present to observe a one minute silence in memory of Lance Corporal Michael Pritchard, former Councillor Roly Hutchinson and Mr Raymond Grist, who had all died recently.
 - Lance Corporal Michael David Pritchard of the 4th Regiment, Royal Military Police, was killed in Afghanistan on 20 December 2009. He was killed as a result of small arms fire in the Sangin area, in central Helmand Province. The possibility that he died as a result of friendly fire was being investigated in Afghanistan but no firm conclusion would be reached until the coroner's inquest. Lance Corporal Michael David Pritchard, 22, was born in Maidstone, Kent on January 11 1987, but lived in Eastbourne from the age of one and went to Cavendish School. The Mayor recorded his gratitude that the burial was able to occur at Ocklynge Cemetery.
 - Roland James Hutchinson (usually known as Roly Hutchinson) was first elected as a Labour party councillor to the former County Borough Council of Eastbourne in May 1970 for the Langney ward and served until that council's dissolution in March 1974. He was then elected to the Borough Council in May 1976 for the Hampden Park ward and served for 4 years before retiring in May 1980. He then stood again in Hampden Park in May 1982 and was elected and served another 4 year term before retiring in May 1986.
 - Mr Raymond Grist, was the husband of former Mayor and Honorary Alderman Janet Grist. Honorary Alderman Grist served as Mayor during 1987-88 and as Deputy Mayor during 1997-98. Mr Grist was her escort during her Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral years.

- 2 The Mayor congratulated Wyvale Grounds Maintenance on their successful submission, with members of the Parks and gardens Group, for a British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) Award for Eastbourne's famous seafront gardens. This was highly commendable in demonstrating how a client and contractor can work together, in partnership, to achieve such high standards. For both the Council and Wyevale Grounds Maintenance, it was excellent to see the Seafront Gardens being recognised along with top London parks such as Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park and the Terrace Gardens, Richmond in being named award winner in the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) Awards 2009. The Mayor presented the award to Tim Brewster, Wyevale's Area Contracts Manager for Eastbourne.
- 3 The Mayor reported that Mr Mark Probyn would be retiring from the Council at the end of March after 42 years of service. Mr Probyn had held a number of positions in the Council including Chief Building Control Officer and, more recently, Assistant Director for Amenities and Contract Management. The Council wished Mr Probyn a long and happy retirement.
- 4 The Mayor reminded members that, at the Council meeting on 6 May 2009 it was agreed that Marine Joe Townsend would be awarded the Freedom of the Borough. Accordingly, the Freedom ceremony would take place on Monday 29 March 2010, at 6.00pm, in the Town Hall Court Room.
- 5 The Mayor reported that the Council had received a certificate in recognition of working with 'Connections 360' on an event held on 28 January 2010 with the objective of preparing young people for the work-place. In addition, the Council was participating in a County-wide joint 'future Jobs Fund' scheme and, as part of this activity, 18 job placements were to join the Council, 3 of which are already in post.
- 6 On Saturday 5 December 2009, the Mayor and Mayoress attended the St Wilfrid's Hospice Christmas Magic Weekend in the town centre and were pleased to welcome Dame Vera Lynn to Eastbourne where she officially opened the event. The event aimed to raise funds for St Wilfrid's Hospice which cares for patients and their families and relies on donations.
- 7 The Mayor's Charity Committee continued with their fundraising efforts in December by holding two events. Firstly, a Fundraising and Awareness event in the Arndale Centre was held on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 December 2009. Volunteers from the local MS Centre, plus the Mayor and Mayoress and the Charity Committee members, manned the stall and offered information and advice to local MS sufferers and their families, explaining the services which they offered to help and support all those affected by MS. A collection was also held at the stall, which raised £400.00 for the Mayor's Charity.
- 8 A second Mayor's Charity event, a Christmas Carol Concert, was held on Friday 11 December 2009 at Our Lady of Ransom Church. The Southdown Singers kindly gave up their time to perform a number of Christmas songs, volunteers read Christmas readings and the audience participated by singing along with a number of festive

- tunes. The church was packed out and those attending made generous contributions when a retiring collection was held. This was followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Parish Centre. This event raised £1000.00 for the Mayor's Charity.
- 9 The Mayor and Mayoress were pleased to lend a hand to the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal and went along to the Salvation Army Citadel in Langney Road on Friday 18 December 2009 to help gift wrap some of the toys.
- 10 On Christmas Day the Mayor and Mayoress visited the residents at the Chaseley Trust and then went on to attend the Rotary Club of Eastbourne's 'Alone at Christmas' event at Our Lady of Ransom Parish Centre.
- 11 The first Mayoral engagement of 2010 took place on New Year's Day. The Mayor and Mayoress, and members of Eastbourne for Peace and Liberty, continued a long tradition of peace vigils on the Town Hall steps. This year's gathering launched Eastbourne's part in the global Flame of Hope initiative. Runners, walkers and cyclists would bear the flame in a relay from along the South Coast to Portsmouth. On 6 April 2010, the Eastbourne contingent would pick up the flame as it arrives from Hastings and carry it on to Seaford where the next relay would carry it on to Brighton. The Flame of Hope would support the worldwide call for the global abolition of nuclear weapons through multilateral negotiation. In May it would go to New York where the leaders of 186 countries were gathering for talks about nuclear weapons. The relay would highlight the legal obligation on all states to start negotiations aimed at a precise result – no nuclear weapons anywhere. Anyone could support Eastbourne's part of the relay and should contact Nicola Metcalfe in the Mayor's office for more information.
- 12 On Wednesday 20 January 2010 the Mayor presented donations to the charities which helped with the Beachy Head Marathon. 11 local charities benefited from a total of £4125.00 which was raised from the marathon. 2009's Beachy Head Marathon saw over 1750 walkers, runners and joggers take part, and Stuart Mills completed his 6th victory in 7 years in a time of 3 hours 3 minutes. Samantha Alvarez from Hailsham finished in overall 10th place, the highest place for a female runner in the Beachy Head Marathon's history in a time of 3 hours 27 minutes. A total of 846 entrants completed the course within 6 hours, which was very challenging this year due to the heavy rain. Of particular mention is Linda Gaitskill who is blind and was guided around by her sighted colleague in just under 7 hours.
- 13 The Mayor and Mayoress were honoured to be invited to attend the 1st anniversary of the KCA Digital Camera Club on Tuesday 26 January 2010. The Mayor has met the camera club now on a number of occasions and was very fortunate to have the services of the camera club members when it came to having his photograph taken for his 2009 Christmas card.
- 14 The Mayor also attended a number of AGMs, concerts, open days and exhibitions in the last few months.

61. Apologies for Absence. Apologies for absence were reported from

Councillors Bloom and Stanley.

62. Disclosures of Interests.

- Councillors Belsey, Goodall, Harris, Heaps, Howlett, Madell, Miah, Pooley, Salsbury and Taylor all declared prejudicial interests in item 68 below on the grounds that they were likely to be serving on or participating in a forthcoming Planning Committee that would be considering a development proposal relevant to the debate on this motion. Accordingly, all these councillors withdrew from the meeting while this item was being considered.
- Councillor Elkin declared a personal interest in respect of item 68 below but deemed it to be non-prejudicial and remained in the meeting and participated in the debate and vote.

63. Council Budget 2010/2011 and Setting of the Council Tax. The Council considered the recommendations of Cabinet at their meeting on 10 February 2010 and the comments of the Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 8 February 2010. The recommendations of Cabinet were reported and proposed by Councillor Mattock and seconded by Councillor Tutt on behalf of the Cabinet.

The following amendment to the Cabinet recommendations was proposed by Councillor Marsden and seconded by Councillor Elkin:

That the following be added to the recommendations:

That a cross party working group is established and scoped immediately to assist in the process of closing the potential £2m gap reported in the Medium Term Financial Plan for the next period.

Councillor Tutt proposed a modification to the proposed amendment to the effect that:

Councillors Tutt and Mattock meet with Councillors Elkin and Marsden along with the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer to discuss the Conservative Group's thoughts and concerns with regard to the budget for 2011/12 and beyond.

This modification to the amendment was accepted by Councillor Marsden.

Resolved: (with one abstention) That the following be approved:

(1) The recommendations as detailed in the reports to Cabinet:

- (i) General fund net expenditure, growth and savings proposals as set out in enclosure A, section 2 and within appendices 1 and 2;
- (ii) An increase of 2.44% in the Council Tax for Eastbourne Borough Council to a Band D charge of £224.19;
- (iii) Housing Revenue Account (HRA) income and expenditure proposals

as set out at in enclosure B, section 8 and within appendix 2, including revised HRA budget for 2009/2010 and the budget for 2010/2011, rents and service charges, arrangements for finalising Eastbourne Homes' management fee and annual plan and the response to the Government's debt settlement offer;

- (iv) General Fund capital programme as set out in enclosure A, appendix 3 and the HRA capital programme as set out in enclosure B, appendix 1;
- (v) The current Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators are adopted until the Council considers a revision in March in the light of the Government's impending debt offer.

(2) That consequent upon a general fund budget of £18,422,314 and other matters, the basic amount (Band D) of council tax for the borough council's functions will be £224.19, calculated as follows:

	£	Band D Council Tax
Borough requirement:	18,422,314	
Less:	£	
Government formula grant (RSG + NNDR)	(10,420,056)	
Council tax collection	196,986	
fund deficit	(10,223,070)	
Council tax requirement:	8,199,244	£224.19

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 17 December 2009 the Cabinet (in exercise of powers delegated to them by the Council) calculated the amount of 36,572 as the Council's tax base for the year 2010/2011 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 1999, made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 and by the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) Regulations 2003, made under Sections 75 and 76 of the Local Government Act 2003.

(4) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2010/2011 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- (a) £79,540,000 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section

32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act.

- (b) £61,117,686 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- (c) £18,422,314 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
- (d) £10,223,070 Being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant or additional grant plus the surplus on the Collection Fund.
- (e) £224.19 Being the amount at 4(c) above less the amount at 4(d) above, all divided by the amount at 3 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- (f) Valuation Bands
- | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|---|---------|---|---------|---|---------|
| A | £149.46 | B | £174.37 | C | £199.28 | D | £224.19 |
| E | £274.01 | F | £323.83 | G | £373.65 | H | £448.38 |

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 4(e) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

(5) That it be noted that for the year 2010/2011 the East Sussex County Council at its meeting on 9 February 2010 had set the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	£772.20	B	£900.90	C	£1,029.60	D	£1,158.30
E	£1,415.70	F	£1,673.10	G	£1,930.50	H	£2,316.60

(6) That it be noted that for the year 2010/2011 the Sussex Police Authority at its meeting on 11 February 2010 had set the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local

Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	£92.28	B	£107.66	C	£123.04	D	£138.42
E	£169.18	F	£199.94	G	£230.70	H	£276.84

(7) That it be noted that for the year 2010/2011 the East Sussex Fire Authority at its meeting on 4 February 2010 set the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	£54.57	B	£63.67	C	£72.76	D	£81.86
E	£100.05	F	£118.24	G	£136.43	H	£163.72

(8) That, having calculated the aggregate in each of the amounts at 4(f), 5, 6 and 7 above, the Council in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts of Council Tax for the year 2010/2011 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	£1,068.51	B	£1,246.60	C	£1,424.68	D	£1,602.77
E	£1,958.94	F	£2,315.11	G	£2,671.28	H	£3,205.54

(9) Councillors Tutt and Mattock meet with Councillors Elkin and Marsden along with the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer to discuss the Conservative Group's thoughts and concerns with regard to the budget for 2011/12 and beyond.

- 64. South Downs National Park Authority.** The Council received nominations for the appointment of one member to the board of the new national park authority. The appointment was initially be to the shadow board pending full operation of the park authority on 1 April 2011. Board members would commence a programme of training in March in readiness for the shadow board commencing its work in April 2010.

Group leaders had been provided with full details of the skills matrix outlining what was expected from the Member taking up the role and asked to submit nominations. As a result, the following nominations were initially received:

- Councillor David Elkin
- Councillor Susan Morris

Subsequently, the nomination of Councillor Elkin was withdrawn.

Resolved: That Councillor Morris be appointed to this position.

- 65. New Executive Arrangements.** The Council considered the report of the Local Democracy Manager to consider the requirements under the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007) in respect of the Council's executive arrangements. This report started the process for the Council to adopt revised "executive arrangements" in line with newly introduced legal obligations.

There were 2 options to choose from, either a Leader elected by the Council or a directly elected Mayor. Both would carry out all the Council's "executive functions" assisted by a number of councillors appointed by the Leader/Mayor to a Cabinet.

A 3-stage decision making process was required. This, the first stage, was about explaining the changes and agreeing the arrangements for public consultation.

A second stage would choose one of the options and the final stage would formally adopt the new executive arrangements (Council resolution to be passed no later than 31 December 2010). Changes would be effective immediately after the May 2011 Borough Council elections.

It was moved by Councillor Tutt, seconded by Councillor Elkin, and

Resolved: (1) That the requirements the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007) places upon the Council relating to changes to the Council's executive arrangements be noted.

(2) That the proposed consultation arrangements (paragraph 5.5) and decision making timetable (appendix 2) as set out in the report be endorsed.

(3) That the Head of Strategy and Democracy be authorised to finalise the detail of consultation arrangements and take all other necessary steps in relation thereto in accordance with the timetable proposed in the report.

(4) That it be noted that the intention was that Cabinet, on 7 July 2010, would receive a report back on the outcome of the consultation and be asked to frame proposals for full Council consideration and approval on 21 July 2010 in respect of a new form of executive, transitional arrangements and, if applicable, consider whether or not to hold a referendum.

- 66. Petitions Scheme.** The Council considered the report of Councillor Marsden on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee in respect of arrangements to address a new duty for the Council to respond to petitions from people who either live, work or study in the Council's area. Councils were being required to respond to 3 types of petition:

- An ordinary petition.

- A petition requiring full council debate.
- A petition calling for a senior officer to appear at a public session of an overview and scrutiny committee.

It was moved by Councillor Marsden, seconded by Councillor Belsey, and

Resolved: That the Local Democracy Manager in liaison with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee and the lead Cabinet member be given delegated authority to:-

(a) Agree revised wording of the Council's petitions scheme (section M in part 3 of the Council's Constitution) so as to comply with the requirements of the legislation and statutory guidance, including:-

- determining the signature thresholds for debates;
- specifying the senior officers who may be held to account at an open meeting of the Scrutiny Committee and the signature thresholds for such petitions; and
- determining the minimum number of signatures for an 'ordinary' petition.

(b) Review the petitions scheme and thresholds 12 months after implementation of the e-petitions facility and report to the Scrutiny Committee.

- 67. Motion – 10:10 Campaign.** The following motion was proposed by Councillor Wallis and seconded by Councillor Morris:

This motion calls on this Council to back the national 10:10 campaign, which urges every sector of British society, including local authorities, to reduce carbon emissions by 10% in 2010.

Mr Stephen Lloyd, Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate, addressed the Council in support of this motion.

Resolved: That this motion be approved.

- 68. Motion – Protection of Green Open Spaces.** The following motion was proposed by Councillor Hough and seconded by Councillor Goodwin:

Following the recent Local Development Framework Neighbourhood Core Strategy consultation process, this motion calls on the government planning inspectorate to acknowledge and adhere to the wishes of Eastbourne's residents and safeguard the town's green open spaces and therefore protect them from over development.

Mr Stephen Lloyd, Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate, addressed the Council in support of this motion.

Resolved: That this motion be approved.

- 69. Minutes of Council Bodies and Items for Discussion.** The minutes of

the following Council Bodies were submitted to this meeting:-

Conservation Area Advisory Group	24 November 2009 and 12 January 2010
Planning Committee	1 December 2009, 5 January 2010 and 2 February 2010
Scrutiny Committee	7 December 2009 and 8 February 2010
Audit Committee	14 December 2009
Cabinet	16 December 2009 and 10 February 2010
General Licensing Committee	18 January 2010
Standards Committee	25 January 2010

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14, Members raised the following items for discussion:-

1. Cabinet, 16 December 2009 – Page 203, Item 88 – Disability Equality Scheme Annual Report – raised by Councillor Goodwin.
2. Cabinet, 16 December 2009 – Page 211, Item 97 – Kingsmere and Willingdon Trees – Green Spaces Project – raised by Councillor Pooley.
3. Cabinet, 16 December 2009 – Page 213, Item 100 – Waste and Minerals Core Strategy – East Sussex County Council’s Preferred Strategy Consultation – raised by Councillor Thompson.
4. Standards Committee, 25 January 2010 – Record of apologies for absence – raised by Councillor Elkin.

Further to Council Procedure Rule 14.3 it was,

Resolved: That the minutes of the above Council Bodies be accepted.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm

**Councillor Gregory John Michael Szanto,
Mayor, Chairman**

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