

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 15 September 2010 at 6.00pm

Present:-

Councillor Carolyn Heaps (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillors Margaret Bannister, Colin Belsey, David Elkin, Barbara Goodall, Andrew Goodwin, Nigel Goodyear, Jon Harris, Alex Hough, Sandie Howlett, Rebecca Madell, Gill Mattock, Graham Marsden, Mary Pooley, Greg Szanto, Barry Taylor, Troy Tester, Mike Thompson, David Tutt, Steve Wallis and Olive Woodall.

34. Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2010 were presented and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

35. Mayoral announcements.

1. The Mayor announced that Nigel Windibank, Mayor's Chauffeur and Mace Bearer, would be leaving the Council's service on 30 September and was moving to Portugal. All members were invited to join the Mayor in the Parlour at 4.00pm on Thursday 30 September to say goodbye to Nigel and thank him for his hard work over the years.
2. The Mayor reported that Councillor Olive Woodall was presented with a lifetime achievement award for her involvement on behalf of Hampden Park in Bloom at last week's presentation ceremony by South East in Bloom held in Gillingham. Hampden Park in Bloom received a "high silver" certificate for their efforts (one up from the "silver" they received last year). Bertie Wilmshurst also received a "bronze" certificate for his efforts at the Princess Diana Garden in Hampden Park.
3. The Eastbourne Dog Show took place on Saturday 7 August outside the Rugby Club in Hampden Park and the Mayor was delighted to open the event. Organised jointly by Eastbourne Borough Council, Sussex Police, the Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership, Hampden Park Users Focus Group, the Friends of the Hampden Park and St Anne's Vets, the event was aimed at encouraging all dog owners to be responsible, have fun with their dogs and educate owners to clean up after their pets.
4. On Saturday 14 August the Mayor was very happy to be invited to spend the day at Airbourne. During the day she met some of the Red Arrows pilots and members of the Flying Tigers Parachute Team (whom she hoped to do a charity parachute jump with at some point in the future), and witnessed the setting of a new World Record as Archie, a six-year-old poodle-collie cross from the Essex Dog Display Team, leapt from back to back over 100 audience members on the Western Lawns. Later in the day the Mayor held a cocktail reception on the Western Lawns and her guests were treated to a display by the

Red Arrows and a performance by the RAF Regiment Band.

5. A brand new community centre was officially opened by the Mayor on Saturday 21 August. The centre in Wartling Road already had a number of users ready to move in. The new centre had a simple layout with a hall, kitchen and toilets and onsite car park and was built as a condition of the planning permission for the estate. Little Treasures nursery would be one of the first regular users of the centre, they had been in temporary accommodation since the old building at the coach and lorry park closed. The building also received funding for a new public artwork on the outside and the selected artist was on hand to meet potential users and took photos of those that liked the idea of being featured as silhouettes within the artwork.
6. On Saturday 28 August the Mayor attended the 3rd Eastbourne Borough FC home game of the new season vs. Wimbledon AFC. Unfortunately the local team lost 2-3 on the day.
7. The Mayor had also attended a number of AGMs, concerts, open days and exhibitions in the last few months.

36. Apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Bloom, Miah, Purchase, Stanley and Tarrant.

37. Disclosures of interests. The following interests were declared in respect of the matter of the motion at minute 41 below (closure of psychiatric in-patient beds) which was currently the subject of consideration by the East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) as part of a consultation by the Sussex Partnership NHS Trust's:

Councillor Hough, who as the Council's appointed representative on the HOSC, declared a personal interest. Although not required to do so, she chose to withdraw from the meeting in order that no question of pre-determination should arise in connection with her future participation on HOSC in relation to this matter.

Councillor Taylor, as an East Sussex County Council appointed representative on HOSC declared a personal interest and chose to withdraw from the meeting.

Councillor Heaps, as an East Sussex County Council appointed representative on HOSC, declared a personal interest. She confined her role to that of meeting chairman and otherwise did not participate in the debate or vote on this matter.

38. Executive arrangements – New governance proposals. Full details of this matter were given in earlier reports to full Council on 24 February 2010 and Cabinet on 14 July 2010. The Council now considered the latest report of the Local Democracy Manager asking that the Council pass the formal resolution to adopt new governance proposals for the discharge of the Council's executive functions and responsibilities. Public notice had been given of the proposals which were set out in the appendix to the report.

The main features of the arrangements were as follows:

1. A leader to be elected by the full council for a 4-year term commencing at the annual meeting (the first to be held following the local elections due to take place on 5 May 2011).
2. Provide for a cabinet comprising the leader and between 2 and 9 councillors appointed by the leader.
3. Require the leader to appoint one of the cabinet as deputy leader and for the deputy leader's term of office to match that of the leader, save that the leader can end the appointment at any time and appoint a new deputy leader.
4. Provide for the deputy leader to exercise all the powers of the leader in the absence of the leader.
5. Allow for full council to remove the leader from office on a vote of no confidence and appoint a new leader.
6. Provide for the leader to discharge all of the authority's executive functions or make arrangements for their discharge by the cabinet, a member of the cabinet, a committee of the cabinet or by an officer of the council.
7. Maintain the current allocation of "local choice" functions between the executive and the council.
8. Transitional arrangements whereby the council's current arrangements remain in force until the 8 May 2011 and provide for appropriate arrangements to be made for the exercise of executive functions and responsibilities between 8 May and the day of the annual meeting

The Council's reasons for adopting these arrangements were set out in the proposals document.

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

Resolved: That the new governance proposals for the Council's executive arrangements as set out in the document appended to the report be formally adopted as required under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and otherwise in accordance with provisions in the Local Government Act 2000 and regulations made under these Acts.

- 39. Petitions – Implementation of new duty.** This matter was considered by the full Council on 24 February 2010 when delegated authority was granted to the Local Democracy Manager in liaison with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee and the lead Cabinet member to agree revised wording of the Council's original petitions scheme so as to comply with the requirements of the legislation and statutory guidance, The Council now considered the report of the Local Democracy Manager which sought formal approval of the revised petitions scheme, set out progress to date with regard to implementing an e-petitions facility, and

sought approval for changes to certain sections of the Council's Constitution associated with the revised petitions scheme.

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

Resolved: (1) That the revised petitions scheme set out in appendix 1 to the report be approved.

(2) That progress to date with regard to implementing an e-petitions facility be noted and authority given to the Local Democracy Manager to take all necessary steps to ensure the statutory deadline for implementation is met.

(3) That required changes to the Scrutiny Committee and Council terms of reference and their respective procedure rules as set out in the Council's Constitution be approved as shown in appendix 2 to the report.

(4) That the Head of Strategy and Democracy be designated as the proper officer for the purpose of deciding if a petition should be rejected.

(5) That it be noted that the Scrutiny Committee will review the thresholds 12 months after the implementation of the on-line petitions facility.

- 40. Member Development – Review and Plan 2010/15.** Councillor Tester reported on this matter on behalf of the Cabinet.

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

Resolved: That the 2010/11 Member Development Plan be approved.

- 41. Closure of psychiatric in-patient beds.** The following motion was proposed by Councillor Szanto and seconded by Councillor Tutt:

This Council calls on the NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and NHS Hastings and Rother to reconsider their proposal to close almost a quarter of the in-patient beds at the psychiatric wards in Eastbourne and Hastings and to address the concerns about the current state of community psychiatric services in these areas.

Mrs Elizabeth Walke, Honorary Freeman and the Council's Hospitals Champion, addressed the meeting in support of the motion.

Resolved: That the motion be approved.

(Note: See minute 37 above as to disclosure of personal interests by Councillors Heaps, Hough and Taylor.)

- 42. Environmental harm in the mass release of helium filled balloons.** The following motion was proposed by Councillor Wallis and seconded by Councillor Hough:

That Eastbourne Borough Council recognises the potential environmental harm in the mass release of helium filled balloons and will discourage such releases from its land and property. Eastbourne Borough Council will look to educate widely the issues surrounding the risks of balloons once released into the atmosphere and will seek to offer more environmentally friendly alternatives.

An amendment to add reference to Chinese type lanterns and delete mention of alternatives such that the motion would read as follows was moved by Councillor Elkin and seconded by Councillor Howlett:

That Eastbourne Borough Council recognises the potential environmental harm of both the mass release of helium filled balloons and Chinese type lanterns and will discourage such releases from its land and property. Eastbourne Borough Council will look to educate widely the issues surrounding the risks of both balloons and Chinese type lanterns once released into the atmosphere.

The mover of the motion indicated acceptance of the amendment.

Mrs Barbara Stanbury, Chairperson, Soroptimists International of Great Britain and Ireland (Eastbourne and District Branch) addressed the meeting in support of the motion.

Resolved (unanimously): That the amended motion be approved.

43. Minutes of Council bodies and items for discussion. The minutes of the following Council Bodies were submitted to this meeting:-

Planning Committee	3 and 31 August 2010
Conservation Area Advisory Group	24 August 2010
Cabinet	1 September 2010
Scrutiny Committee	6 September 2010

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

1. Cabinet, 1 September 2010 – page 113, minute no. 51 – Corporate performance quarter 1 – raised by Councillor Mattock.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.3 it was moved by Councillor Tutt, seconded by Councillor Elkin, and;

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

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

**Councillor Carolyn Joan Heaps,
Mayor, Chairman**

(pf:council\10.09.15\mins)