

## **Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 23 February 2011 at 6.00 pm**

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, Graham Marsden, Gill Mattock, Susan Morris, Harun Miah, Mary Pooley, Daniel Purchase, Margaret Salisbury, Neil Stanley, Greg Szanto, Barry Taylor, Troy Tester, Mike Thompson, David Tutt, Steve Wallis and Olive Woodall.

**53. Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2010 were presented and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

### **54. Mayoral Announcements.**

- 1 The Mayor asked those present to observe a one minute silence in memory of former Councillor Professor Walter James who died in December. Professor Walter James CBE, was elected for the Ocklynge Ward May 1994 as a Liberal Democrat, and he served until the elections in May 1998. In observing the silence, the Mayor also asked members to reflect on the loss of life as a result of the recent earthquake in New Zealand.
- 2 On 1 December the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Salisbury, attended the World Aids Day procession which took a route from the Town Hall, along Grove Road and Terminus Road to Sussex Gardens, in remembrance and celebration of the lives of people who have sadly passed, and those who live with HIV now. Unfortunately the initial planned route was cut short due to the snowy weather. The Town Hall Clock was also turned red to mark the occasion.
- 3 On 9 December the Mayor attended the unveiling of her portrait. Nigel Greaves, who owns a gallery in Compton Street, painted the portrait over a period of two months and it was unveiled at the gallery by Keith Ridley from the Eastbourne Herald.
- 4 The Mayor's Charity Christmas Concert was held at the Town Hall on 10 December. Featuring Concentus Chorale, the concert included a few well known Christmas carols and two Christmas readings. Cavendish Bakery kindly donated 300 mince pies which were served at the end of the concert with mulled wine. The concert raised £450 for the Mayor's Charity appeal.
- 5 On 16 December the Mayor and civic guests were treated to a night at the Eastbourne Theatre's pantomime, Cinderella. Eastbourne Theatres were celebrating 10 years of in-house pantomime productions and to mark the occasion guests were given an

informative insight into the production of the pantomime by Chris Jordan and a behind the scenes visit. After the show guests were able to meet the cast.

- 6 During December, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor also attended a number of Christmas services and carol concerts around the town.
- 7 On 20 January the Mayor held a Day of Prayer at the Town Hall. Religious leaders from across the town were invited to lead sessions of prayer in the Assembly Hall. The event corresponded with the local Civic Prayer Breakfast which was held at the Congress Suite but was the first time a Mayor has held an event of this type. The event was very well attended with over 300 people coming through the doors over the course of the day to pray for the town. We are hoping to repeat the Day of Prayer in the future.
- 8 On 26 January the volunteer groups and charities who assisted in staging the Beachy Head Marathon were invited to the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall where the Mayor presented them with cheques as a thank you for their help. The charities and groups which received cheques included HM Coastguard Service (Eastbourne and Birling Gap), Raynet, St John Ambulance and the Rotary Club of Hailsham. A record £5,000 was presented to the volunteer groups, a 20% increase on last year's donations.
- 9 The Mayor took part in a sponsored sleep-out overnight on 29 January, to highlight homelessness in the town and to raise funds for her chosen charities. She was joined on the steps of the Town Hall by members of Eastbourne and Wealden YMCA and a reporter from the Eastbourne Herald. Overnight the temperature dropped to -5 degrees but spirits were kept high and those taking part received some pizzas courtesy Papa John's Pizza who were celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Donations and sponsorship monies were still being received but it is hoped that the event will have raised over £1,000 for the Mayor's Charity.
- 10 During January the Mayor launched a page on Facebook. This will enable her to interact with the public and keep people informed of what she is up to and events that are being held. The public are able to upload photos of the Mayor at their events and comment on what's going on. So far the Mayor has 66 'likes' but numbers are growing rapidly.
- 11 Tickets will be going on sale on 1 March for the Mayor's Charity Banquet and Boogie (formerly the Mayor's Charity Ball). This year's black tie event will be held at the Ocean Suite on Eastbourne Pier on 20 May. The evening will start at 6.45pm with a drinks reception and musical entertainment on the terrace (subject to weather conditions), a bespoke three-course meal will be served at 7.30pm, and there will be after dinner dancing to 'Champagne Supernova'. Tickets will be priced at £45 per person and tables will seat 10 people.

**55. Apologies for Absence.** An apology for absence was reported from Councillor Bloom.

**56. Disclosures of Interests.**

- The Mayor and Councillor Taylor both declared personal, prejudicial interests in item 63 below as County Council representatives on the County Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and both withdrew from the meeting during the debate and decision on that item.
- Councillor Hough declared personal, non-prejudicial interests in item 63 below as Eastbourne Borough Council's representatives on the County Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and participated in the debate and decision on that item.
- Councillors Marsden and Tutt both declared personal interests as Eastbourne Homes board members in respect of item 57 below insofar as any part of the debate should relate to Eastbourne Homes. Both councillors remained and participated in the debate and vote on this item but had stated their intention to withdraw should any matter relating specifically to Eastbourne Homes come under consideration.

**57. Council Budget 2011/2012 and Setting of the Council Tax.** The Council considered the recommendations of Cabinet at their meeting on 9 February 2011 and the comments of the Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 7 February 2011. The recommendations of Cabinet were reported and proposed by Councillor Mattock and seconded by Councillor Tutt.

Annabelle West, 2 Ripley Chase, The Goffs, Eastbourne, and Tom Liddiard, Flat 2, 53 Enys Road, Eastbourne, both addressed the Council on this item.

**Resolved: (with 7 abstentions)** That the following be approved:

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

- (i) The General Fund net expenditure for 2011/12 of £15,829,000, and the growth and savings proposals.
- (ii) No change to the Council Tax for Eastbourne Borough Council to a Band D charge of £224.19.
- (iii) Housing Revenue Account (HRA) income and expenditure proposals, including revised HRA budget for 2010/2011 and the budget for 2011/2012, 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 the report of the Chief finance Officer.
- (v) The Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

**(2)** That consequent upon a general fund budget of £15,829,000 and other matters, the basic amount (Band D) of council tax for the borough council's functions will be £224.19, calculated as follows:

	£	£
Gross Expenditure – General Fund		75,833,700
Gross Expenditure – HRA		14,855,100
		<hr/>
		90,688,800
Less Gross Income		(74,859,800)
		<hr/>
Budget Requirement:		15,829,000
Less:		
Government formula grant (RSG + NNDR)	(7,579,542)	
Council tax collection fund surplus	(8,700)	
		<hr/>
		(7,588,242)
		<hr/>
Council tax requirement:		8,240,758
		<hr/>
Band 'D' Council Tax		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 15 December 2010 the Cabinet (in exercise of powers delegated to them by the Council) calculated the amount of 36,757.7 as the Council's tax base for the year 2011/2012 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 2011/2012 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- (a) £90,688,800 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) £74,859,800 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) £15,829,000 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) £7,588,242 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 2011/2012 the East Sussex County Council at its meeting on 8 February 2011 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 2011/2012 the Sussex Police Authority at its meeting on 10 February 2011 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 2011/2012 the East Sussex Fire Authority at its meeting on 3 February 2011 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 2011/2012 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

- 58. Appointment of Acting Monitoring Officer.** The Council received a report from the Deputy Chief Executive requesting the statutory appointment of a nominated Acting Monitoring Officer to cover the period of maternity leave absence of the Lawyer to the Council.

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

**Resolved:** That Mr Peter Finnis, the Head of Strategy and Democracy, be appointed as Acting Monitoring Officer covering the period of maternity leave absence of the Lawyer to the Council.

- 59. Licensing Policy Statement 2011/14.** The Council considered the report of Councillor Wallis on behalf of the Cabinet.

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

**Resolved:** That the revised licensing policy statement 2011/14 be approved.

- 60. Control of Sex Establishments – Section 26 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009.** The Council considered the report of Councillor Wallis on behalf of the Cabinet.

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

**Resolved: (1)** That the relevant provisions of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 and schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 be adopted.

**(2)** That the policy document be approved.

- 61. Agile Working Programme – Revised and New Human Resources Policies.** The Council considered the report of Councillor Tester on behalf of the Cabinet.

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

**Resolved: (with 1 abstention) (1)** That the revised and new human resources policies and procedures be approved.

**(2)** That the arrangements for allowances and expenses and the provision that these be reviewed at two yearly intervals by the Head of Human Resources in conjunction with Head of Infrastructure in line with cost of living changes, be approved.

- 62. Treasury Management – Prudential Indicators 2011/12.** The Council considered the report of Councillor Mattock on behalf of the Cabinet.

Gordon Jenkins, 4 Bathford Close, Eastbourne addressed the Council on this item.

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

**Resolved: (with 3 abstentions)** That the recommendations of the Cabinet in respect of treasury management be approved.

- 63. Motion – Closure of In-Patient Beds Psychiatric.** The following motion was proposed by Councillor Szanto and seconded by Councillor Harris:

*Acknowledging the promise of the NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and NHS Hastings and Rother that the closure of in-patient beds at the psychiatric wards in Eastbourne and Hastings would be contingent upon demonstrable improvements being made in community psychiatric services, this Council calls on the NHS to honour that promise by providing details of what improved community services will be put in place, including a breakdown of additional staff numbers and precise details of when and where such staff will be in place.*

**Resolved:** That this motion be approved.

- 64. Motion – Local Carbon Budgets.** The following motion was proposed by Councillor Wallis and seconded by Councillor Tutt:

*Eastbourne Borough Council supports local carbon budgets and in doing so adds this authority's name to a list of councils calling on the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to introduce the required legislation.*

*To commit to reducing CO2 emissions by 40%, within the borough of Eastbourne by the year 2020.*

Brenda Pollack, Friends of the Earth – South East Regional Campaigner, addressed the Council in support of this motion.

An amendment proposed by Councillor Belsey and seconded by Councillor

Elkin that the words "commit to reducing" be replaced with the words "endeavour to reduce" was lost by 17 votes to 7.

**Resolved: (by 22 votes to 1 with 1 abstention)** That this motion be approved.

- 65. Motion – European Union Funding.** The following motion was proposed by Councillor Goodyear and seconded by Councillor Elkin:

*The Council notes, with concern, that whilst Eastbourne is facing a shocking 12.8% reduction in cash terms in its financial settlement for 2011/12, the UK's contribution to the European Union (EU) is set to rise by 60% over two years.*

*This Council also notes that, despite opposition from the UK Parliament, and of many MEPs in the European Parliament, the government has agreed to a further 2.9% increase in the overall EU budget; an extra £430 million a year.*

*This Council believes the EU should be treated the same as the other tiers of government and in these financially challenging times should share responsibility, along with central and local government, for public spending reductions. Sharing the burden would result in less severe cuts for local authorities, and give more assistance to all councils to protect front line services.*

*This Council therefore urges Eastbourne's MP, Stephen Lloyd not to support any further increase in the UK's share of the EU budget.*

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Tester and seconded by Councillor Stanley:

Delete the final paragraph and replace with "The Council therefore urges Eastbourne's MP, Stephen Lloyd to support the Prime Minister in keeping to an absolute minimum any increases to the EU budget, going forward."

**Resolved: (by 17 votes to 7)** That the following amended motion be approved:

*The Council notes, with concern, that whilst Eastbourne is facing a shocking 12.8% reduction in cash terms in its financial settlement for 2011/12, the UK's contribution to the European Union (EU) is set to rise by 60% over two years.*

*This Council also notes that, despite opposition from the UK Parliament, and of many MEPs in the European Parliament, the government has agreed to a further 2.9% increase in the overall EU budget; an extra £430 million a year.*

*This Council believes the EU should be treated the same as the other tiers of government and in these financially challenging times should share responsibility, along with central and local government, for public spending*

*reductions. Sharing the burden would result in less severe cuts for local authorities, and give more assistance to all councils to protect front line services.*

*The Council therefore urges Eastbourne's MP, Stephen Lloyd to support the Prime Minister in keeping to an absolute minimum any increases to the EU budget, going forward.*

**66. Minutes of Council Bodies and Items for Discussion.** The minutes of the following Council Bodies were submitted to this meeting:-

Conservation Area Advisory Group	23 November 2010 and 11 January 2011
Planning Committee	30 November 2010, 4 January 2011 and 1 February 2011
Scrutiny Committee	6 December 2010 and 7 February 2011
Audit Committee	8 December 2010
Cabinet	15 December 2010 and 9 February 2011
Standards Committee	24 January 2011

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

1. Audit Committee – 8 December 2010, Page 225, Item 15 - Annual Audit Letter 2009/10 - Raised by Councillor Thompson.
2. Cabinet – 15 December 2010, Page 235, Item 93 - East Sussex Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) – Consultation Draft - Raised by Councillor Tester.
3. Cabinet - 15 December 2010, Page 236, Item 94 - Cycling Strategy - Raised by Councillor Wallis.

Further to Council Procedure Rule 14.3 it was,

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

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

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

(pf:council\11.02.23\mins)