

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 20 April 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, 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.

67. Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2011 were presented and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

68. Mayoral Announcements.

- 1 The Mayor asked those present to observe a one minute silence in memory of Private Daniel Steven Prior, from 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, who was wounded by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan on 16 March 2011 and died of his wounds in the UK on Friday 18 March 2011. His funeral was held at St Saviours Church on Monday 4 April 2011 and he was buried at Ocklyng Cemetery.
- 2 Eastbourne Borough Council won Council of the Year at an Awards Ceremony hosted by iESE, the South East's body dedicated to delivering improvement and efficiency in local public services. The judges were impressed by Eastbourne's concerted effort to radically overhaul its culture and performance and deliver major improvements to the area.
- 3 Thursday 24 February saw the launch of the Eastbourne Herald Business Supper Club at the Chatsworth Hotel. The Mayor was very happy to attend the launch and to promote the town. The Mayor's Charity organised a raffle at the event and this made £230.
- 4 On 2 March the Mayor paid a visit to the Land Army ladies at the William and Patricia Venton Centre. The ladies have been meeting once a fortnight at the Centre for the last couple of years, and Councillor Heaps' visit was a continuation of a relationship set up between the Mayoralty and the group when they first came together.
- 5 The Mayor attended the Spring into Action Ball at the Winter Garden on the evening of Saturday 5 March. The event was raising money for the Critical Care Unit at Eastbourne DGH and was organised by the Friends of Eastbourne Hospitals, Rotary and ETC Magazine. The Ball raised over £20,000 and the money would go towards buying automatic temperature and blood pressure equipment, freeing the

nursing staff for other duties.

- 6 The Mayor was delighted to attend the Eastbourne Music and Arts Festival Winners' Concert on Sunday 13 March. The 2011 Eastbourne Music and Arts Festival was the 51st consecutive occasion when this major celebration of the performing arts had taken place in Eastbourne's Winter Garden. It was in February 1961 that the first Festival was staged, under the direction of the then conductor of the internationally successful Eastbourne Girls Choir, Edith Pearson. Competitors regularly attended from all parts of East and West Sussex and Kent with the main entry obviously coming from the Eastbourne area. These included amateur dancers, musicians and speakers of all ages from five years to 75 years of age, each bringing their particular skill for professional assessment and for audience enjoyment.
- 7 The Mayor's Charity Fashion Show was held at the Town Hall on Friday 18 March and raised over £750 for Comic Relief and the Mayor's Charities.
- 8 The Mayor's Charity Golf Day took place at Eastbourne Downs Golf Club in Friday 8 April. 18 Teams of 4 entered the competition and the event raised over £2,800 for the Mayor's Charities.
- 9 On Sunday 17 April Eastbourne RNLI entertained the Mayor at the all-weather lifeboat station before taking her aboard the Mersey class lifeboat for an exercise launch to Beachy Head. The Mayor has long been a supporter of Eastbourne Lifeboats and was interested to experience firsthand the workings of a modern lifeboat. She was keen to participate in the exercise launch, even volunteering to be the 'man overboard' casualty but was easily dissuaded when she was informed that the current sea temperature, despite the recent sunny spell, was still only 9°C!
- 10 The Mayor also attended a number of AGMs, concerts, open days and exhibitions in the last few months.
- 11 Tickets were now on sale for the Mayor's Charity Banquet and Boogie (formerly the Mayor's Charity Ball). This year's black tie event would be held at the Ocean Suite on Eastbourne Pier on Friday 20 May. The evening would start at 6.45pm with a drinks reception and musical entertainment on the terrace (subject to weather conditions), a bespoke three-course meal would be served at 7.30pm, and there would be after dinner dancing to 'Champagne Supernova'. Tickets would be priced at £45 per person and tables would seat 10 people. There were still a few remaining tickets, and all bookings must be made before Tuesday 3 May.

69. Apologies for Absence. Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Bloom and Tarrant.

70. Disclosures of Interests. The following interests were declared:

- Councillors Bannister, Harris and Stanley all declared personal non-prejudicial interests in minute 74 below and remained in the meeting and participated in the consideration of that item.
- Councillors Pooley and Taylor both declared personal prejudicial interests in minute 74 below and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of that item.
- Councillor Taylor declared a personal prejudicial interest in minute 75 item 1 below and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of that item.

71. Retirement of Councillors and Whole Council elections 2011.

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

Resolved: (1) To note that by virtue of The Borough of Eastbourne (Whole Council Elections) Order 2006 all currently serving Councillors will cease to hold office on 9 May 2011 (i.e. the 4th day after election day) unless re-elected.

(2) That it also be noted that the following councillors are not seeking re-election and that the Council expresses its appreciation for the service they have given to the Borough of Eastbourne:-

Mary Pooley	First elected on 7 May 1990 for Hampden Park ward and has continued to serve for that ward to the present. She also served as Mayor in 2007/08.
Graham Marsden	First elected on 6 May 1991 for Upperton ward and has continued to serve for that ward to the present. He also served as Mayor in 2005/06 and as Leader of the Council for 2000/02 and again in 2004/05.
Olive Woodall	First elected on 6 May 1991 for Hampden Park ward and has continued to serve for that ward to the present. She served as Mayor in 2002/03 and 2003/04. She also served as a county councillor for the Park/Hampden Park division from 1997 until her retirement in 2009.
Barbara Goodall	First elected on 6 May 1991 for Ratton ward and served until 4 May 1995. Elected again for Ratton on 3 September 1998 and continued to serve until the present. She also served as Mayor in 2004/05.
Michael Bloom	Elected on 7 May 2007 for Sovereign ward.
Andrew Goodwin	Elected on 7 May 2007 for Old Town ward.

Rebecca Madell	Elected on 7 May 2007 for the Upperton ward.
Daniel Purchase	Elected on 7 May 2007 for Langney ward.
Greg Szanto	Elected on 7 May 2007 for Old Town ward. He also served as Mayor in 2008/09 and 2009/10.
Susan Tarrant	Elected on 7 May 2007 for Sovereign ward.

- 72. Executive Arrangements – Constitution Update.** The Council received a report from the Local Democracy Manager which set out the final stage of the process for the Council to adopt revised “executive arrangements” in line with recently introduced legal obligations. A report to full Council at its meeting on 24 February 2010 set out the consultation process and at its meeting on 21 July 2010 the Council considered and adopted proposals for the adoption of the new “strong leader and cabinet” form of executive.

In order to bring these arrangements into effect, Council at its meeting on 15 September 2010 passed a resolution formally to adopt the new proposals. Following the making of the resolution, public notice was given setting out the main features of the new arrangements and the date they would be implemented.

Amendments were required to the Constitution following the adoption of the revised executive arrangements and a number of other amendments to reflect organisational and other procedural changes were also proposed.

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

Resolved: That the proposed amendments to the constitution as set out in appendix 1 to the report be approved.

- 73. Members Allowances - Review.** The Council considered the reports of the Local Democracy Manager and the Independent Remuneration Panel. This was a requirement of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 as amended which governs the making and amendment of allowances schemes and that an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) be established by the Council to review allowances and make recommendations to the Council. This had duly been done by a Panel comprising the following members:

Bernard Curtis – Active in the town’s voluntary sector and currently chairman of MS Family Support.

Duncan Keir – Former local authority chief officer and human resources manager, active in the voluntary sector including trustee of Sussex Housing Trust for the Elderly. Also a member of East Sussex County Council’s independent remuneration panel.

Martin Varley – partner with Thomson Snell and Passmore, solicitors.

Specialist in financial services and regulation. Also Chairman of the independent remuneration panel of Wealden District Council and Chairman of the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority independent remuneration advisory group.

After due consideration, the IRP recommended the following changes:

- (1) That child care and dependants' carers' allowances be increased to £8 (basic rate) and £12 (specialist care rate) with effect from 20 April 2011 and that paragraph 5.2 of the current allowances scheme, which provides for an upper limit on the total amount an individual councillor can claim in the year in respect of carers' allowances be removed from the scheme.
- (2) That car mileage travel rates be increased to 45p with effect from 20 April 2011 to reflect the change in AMAP (HM Revenue and Customs approved mileage rates).
- (3) That all other allowances (basic, special responsibility, co-optees, information technology and subsistence allowances) remain unchanged for 2011/12.
- (4) That a further review of the allowances scheme be undertaken in 2012 having regard to potential changes in member structures and councillors' workloads as a consequence of initiatives such as the Localism Bill and the Council's sustainable service delivery strategy.
- (5) That pending the further review recommended at (4) above, the annual adjustment provisions of the allowances scheme, by which allowances are normally increased on 1 April each year in line with an approved index, be suspended (noting that any adjustments to allowances implemented as a consequence of that further review, can, if desired, be backdated to 1 April 2012).

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

Resolved: (1) That the recommendations (1), (2) and (3) of the Independent Remuneration Panel as set out above be approved and adopted.

(2) That the recommendations (4) and (5) of the Independent Remuneration Panel as set out above be not approved on the grounds that, given the financial constraints of the times, a further review after such a short time would not be in the best interest of the Council or the town.

(3) That the Local Democracy Manager be authorised to make the necessary amendments to the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme to give effect to decisions made in respect of the Panel's recommendations.

(4) That the members of the Panel be thanked for their work.

- 74. Motion – Provision of Maternity Services.** The following motion was proposed by Councillor Tutt and seconded by Councillor Belsey:

That Eastbourne Borough Council reaffirms it's commitment to the provision

of Consultant led maternity services at both Eastbourne DGH and The Conquest, Hastings, as prescribed by the Independent Review Panel. It therefore calls upon the Board of the East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust to confirm that they will continue to provide such services for the benefit of the local community.

Honorary Freeman Elizabeth Walke (Hospitals Champion) addressed the Council in support of this motion, and pledged the collective support of the "Save the DGH" Campaign Group.

Resolved: That the motion be approved.

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

Conservation Area Advisory Group	22 February and 5 April 2011
Planning Committee	1 March and 29 March 2011
Audit Committee	16 March 2011
General Licensing Committee	21 March 2011
Cabinet	23 March 2011

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

1. Council, page 303, minute 63 – Closure of In-Patient Beds Psychiatric – Raised by Councillor Szanto.
2. Cabinet, page 327, minute 128 – Improvement and Efficiency South East – Council of the Year Award – Raised by Councillor Thompson.
3. Cabinet, page 328, minute 129 – Local Enterprise Partnership and Regional Growth Fund – Raised by Councillor Szanto.
4. Cabinet, page 329, minute 130 – Local Loyalty Scheme for Eastbourne – Raised by Councillor Harris.
5. Cabinet, page 335, minute 136 – Corporate Performance – Quarter 3 – Raised by Councillor Mattock.
6. Scrutiny Committee, page 351, minute 28 – Devolved Budgets and Neighbourhood Panels – Raised by Councillor Marsden.

Further to Council Procedure Rule 14.3 it was,

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

The meeting closed at 8.03pm

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

(pf:council\11.04.20\mins)