



Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22 February 2012 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Councillor Carolyn Heaps (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillors Margaret Bannister, Colin Belsey, Janet Coles, Alun Cooke, Philip Ede, David Elkin, Nigel Goodyear, Jon Harris, Pat Hearn, Sandie Howlett, Gordon Jenkins, Tom Liddiard, Gill Mattock, Harun Miah, Colin Murdoch, Jim Murray, Alan Shuttleworth, Neil Stanley, Barry Taylor, Troy Tester, Mike Thompson, David Tutt, John Ungar, Steve Wallis, Patrick Warner and Annabelle West.

49. Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2011 were presented and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

50. Mayoral Announcements.

- 1 The Mayor called upon the Council to observe a one minute silence in memory of former Mayoress Kay Vickers, who passed away recently. Mrs Vickers was the wife of Aubrey Vickers, Eastbourne's longest serving politician, and served as Mayoress of the Town between 1990 and 1991.
- 2 The Mayor attended the launch of the 11th annual Eastbourne Youth Radio broadcast at Sussex Downs College on 17 November. Between 16 and 18 November, hundreds of students aged 5-19 delivered over 50 hours of programmes on 87.7FM and www.eyr.org.uk. These included local interviews, live drama and performance work, competitions and special features.
- 3 On 1 December the Mayor held a Winter Party Night at The Loft Lounge and Bar to raise funds for her chosen charity – The Tuesday O'Hara Fund. The night was a great success despite the inclement weather that evening, and over £400 was raised for the Mayor's Charity. A similar night is planned at The Loft for 26 April, on what would have been Tuesday O'Hara's 27th birthday.
- 4 The Mayor attended the Pantomime Civic Night on 15 December and enjoyed the performance of The Adventures of Robin Hood. Starring John Altman, EastEnders Nick Cotton as Sheriff of Nottingham, Martyn Knight back as favourite pantomime Dame, Carl Patrick as Will Scarlet and Tracey Penn as Robin Hood, the Mayor had a great night along with her civic colleagues.
- 5 On Christmas Day the Mayor took time out to visit the residents at Chaseley during their Christmas Party, and then went on to visit the guests at Our Lady of Ransom who were enjoying the 'Alone at Christmas' lunch courtesy of Eastbourne Rotary Club.

- 6 The Mayor joined 30 other volunteers on Boxing Day to take a sea dip to raise funds for the Mayor's Chosen Charity – The Tuesday O'Hara Fund. After the dip swimmers were offered a warm shower and hot drinks and food courtesy of the Travelodge. Sponsorship money was still coming in and being counted, but Mayor's Charity Committee member Marie Campbell and colleague Kelly Ancell who also took part in the dip, raised over £700 alone.
- 7 The Mayor's first engagement for the new year was the Sussex Downs College Student Awards Evening at the Grand Hotel on 5 January. Award winners and guests were treated to a two course meal and entertainment from the college's Performing Arts students. Following the meal, the Mayor presented awards to the winners alongside Lynsey Bartlett from Heart FM, local MP Stephen Lloyd and the Mayor of Lewes.
- 8 On 12 January the Mayor was joined local street cleaners, refuse collectors and recycling teams from SITA at their annual awards evening. The evening was hosted by Suncoast Church and arranged by Churches Together for Eastbourne. Guests were provided with a fish and chip supper courtesy of the Odyssey Fish Restaurant.
- 9 The Mayor held the 2nd annual Mayor's Day of Prayer at the Town Hall on 21 January. During the day over 450 people came into the assembly hall to pray for the Town.
- 10 The first ever Mayor's Charity Prom Fair was held at the Town Hall on 28 January. This unique event was very well attended by youngsters preparing for their forthcoming school proms and all trade spaces were sold out by the week prior to the event. During the day there were two fashion shows and a raffle with the first prize of a brand new prom dress from local business Prom Boutique. The event raised almost £1200 for the Mayor's Charity for 2011/12, the Tuesday O'Hara Fund, and organisers were now planning a wedding fair for 25 March.
- 11 The Mayor also attended a number of AGMs, concerts, open days and exhibitions in the last few months.

51. Apologies for absence. There were no apologies for absence.

52. Disclosures of interests. There were no declarations of interests.

53. Petition for debate under rule 6 of the Council's petitions scheme.

The Council received the following petition on which there were 3,200 signatures:

We, the undersigned, would like better cycling provision in Eastbourne. We support a seafront cycle route.

In accordance with the petitions scheme rules require the petition organiser was offered the opportunity to present the petition at the meeting and the

petition ahead of discussion by members.

Ms Felicity Goodson, representing Bespoke, addressed the Council in support of the petition.

In discussing the petition, members noted that the Planning Committee on 31 January 2012 and Cabinet on 8 February 2012 both considered the proposed cycling strategy for the borough. The minutes of these meetings were circulated with this agenda for information.

Council praised the work of Bespoke reaffirmed the commitment to improved cycle routes as reflected in the recently approved cycling strategy. The need to ensure safer cycling on the roads and the vision for an integrated cycle route were emphasised together with an ongoing commitment to pursuing the introduction of 20mph zones with East Sussex County Council.

- 54. Council budget and setting of the council tax for 2012/13.** This matter was reported and moved by Councillor Mattock on behalf of the Cabinet and was seconded by Councillor Tutt. In addition, the Council considered the reports to Cabinet, as included in draft budget book and also the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet minutes and resolutions from the meetings held on 6 February and 8 February 2012 respectively. The recommendations and subsequent resolutions as set out below reflected the significant changes brought about by the Localism Act 2011 to the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Elkin and seconded by Councillor Howlett:

That an alternative budget for 2012/13 be adopted which makes the following changes to the proposed 2012/13 budget of the administration:

- 1. Allocate £453,000 for the purpose of refurbishing the existing Wish Tower restaurant building and £50,000 to fund a new initiative for the regeneration of town centre shops, both from the regeneration fund reserve of £672,000*
- 2. Re-allocate £350,000 of the £506,000 currently earmarked for Town Hall roof repairs for the purpose of undertaking the repairs to the Congress Theatre.*
- 3. Earmark a total of £70,000 from income arising from the Solarbourne project and allocate:*
 - £40,000 towards accelerating the Asset Management programme through an increase in the number of property surveys.*
 - £30,000 for the funding of an additional dog warden post.*

The overall effect of the above proposals will have no effect on the bottom line of the 2012/13 budget.

The above amendment was lost by 14 votes to 12.

Resolved: (By 14 votes to 0) That the following be approved:

1. The recommendations as detailed in the reports from the Chief Finance Officer and the Senior Head of Community to Cabinet on 8 February 2012:
 - (i) The General Fund net expenditure for 2012/13 of £15,706,300, 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 2011/12 and the budget for 2012/13, rents and service charges, arrangements for finalising Eastbourne Homes' management fee and annual plan.
 - (iv) General Fund capital programme as set out in report of the Chief Finance Officer.
 - (v) The Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.
2. That consequent upon a general fund budget of £15,706,300 and other matters, the basic amount (Band D) of council tax for the borough council's functions will be £224.19 calculated as follows:

	£'000
Gross Expenditure – General Fund	85,835
Gross Expenditure - HRA	14,255
	100,090
Less Income:	£'000
Gross Income	(84,570)
Government formula grant (RSG, NNDR)	(7,012)
Council Tax Grant	(207)
Council tax collection fund surplus	(9)
	(91,798)
Council tax requirement:	8,292
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 14 December 2011 the Cabinet (in exercise of powers delegated to them by the Council) calculated the amount of 36,986.2 as the Council's tax base for the year 2012/2013 (Item T in the formula in section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended).

- 4 Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2012/13 is £8,291,950.
5. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2012/2013 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended:
- (a) £100,089,950 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
- (b) £91,798,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £8,291,950 being the amount by which the aggregate at 5(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 5(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
- (d) £224.19 being the amount at 5(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (4 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. .
6. Noted that East Sussex County Council, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority and Sussex Police Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
7. That the council, in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2012/13 for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation Bands

EASTBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

A	£149.46	B	£174.37	C	£199.28	D	£224.19
E	£274.01	F	£323.83	G	£373.65	H	£448.38

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

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

SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

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

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

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

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

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

7. Council determines that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2012/13 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.

- 55. Town centre area action plan.** This matter was reported and moved by Councillor Tutt on behalf of the Cabinet and seconded by Councillor Jenkins.

Resolved: That approval be given for the submission Eastbourne town centre area action plan and sustainability appraisal and that this be submitted to the Secretary of State.

- 56. Council members – induction phase review and development plan 2012 forward.** This matter was reported and moved by Councillor Tester on behalf of the Cabinet and seconded by Councillor Howlett.

Resolved: That the proposed plan be endorsed.

- 57. Treasury management and prudential indicators 2012/13.** This matter was reported and moved by Councillor Mattock on behalf of the Cabinet and seconded by Councillor Elkin.

Resolved: That the recommendations of the Cabinet be approved.

- 58. Review of street trading policy and facilitation of street markets.** This matter was reported and moved by Councillor Tutt on behalf of the Cabinet and seconded by Councillor Ede.

Resolved: (1) That the setting of fees and charges related to street trading be delegated to the General Licensing Committee.

(2) That Council formally designates all the streets within the borough as consent streets or prohibited streets as detailed in the report to Cabinet and the street trading policy, and consider any objections, under the designation procedures.

(NOTE: The statutory procedures referred to in resolution (2) above

regarding consent street designation require that the full Council later confirm their proposed designation at a subsequent meeting, after advertising and considering any representations on the proposal)

- 59. Street market in Terminus Road.** This matter was reported and moved by Councillor Tutt on behalf of the Cabinet and seconded by Councillor Ede.

Resolved: That the setting of the cost of the consents relating to the street market be delegated to the General Licensing Committee.

- 60. Horse drawn carriages for pleasure rides along Eastbourne seafront.** This matter was reported and moved by Councillor Wallis on behalf of the Cabinet and seconded by Councillor Stanley. Concerns were expressed about potential animal welfare issues as highlighted in correspondence received from 'Animal Aid'. Council was advised that this decision would only approve the mechanism by which licences could be issued. Issues around animal welfare would be a priority as part of considering the issue of any specific licences and the Council would welcome further input from 'Animal Aid' in this matter.

Resolved: (By 15 votes to 5) That the administration of the related licensing arrangements, including the setting of fees and operating conditions, be delegated to the General Licensing Committee.

- 61. Pay policy statement.** This matter was reported and moved by Councillor Tester on behalf of the Cabinet and seconded by Councillor Howlett.

Resolved: That the pay policy statement as appended to the report to Cabinet be approved.

- 62. Motion – Youth Council.** The following motion was proposed by Councillor Liddiard and seconded by Councillor Warner:

This Council commits to re-establishing the Eastbourne Youth Council.

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

Delete: all words after "*This council...*"

and replace with:

"reaffirms its commitment to effective and purposeful engagement with young people through:

1. the establishment of the Youth Forum, arising from the Authority's partnership with the YMCA

2. the Corporate Plan priority of youth engagement

3. recognising its proven track record of listening to and acting upon the suggestions of young people, as evidenced through the provision of a skate

facility in Gildredge Park.”

Jamilla Hekmoun, Student President of Sussex Downs College, Eastbourne campus addressed the Council in support of its current range of youth provision and engagement initiatives.

Resolved: (By 22 votes to 0) That the amended motion be approved.

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

Conservation Area Advisory Committee	22 November 2011 and 10 January 2012
Planning Committee	29 November 2011 and 3 and 31 January 2012
Audit Committee	7 December 2011
Scrutiny Committee	12 December 2011 and 6 February 2012
Cabinet	14 December 2011 and 8 February 2012
General Licensing Committee	16 January 2012
Standards Committee	23 January 2012

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

1. Cabinet, 14 December 2011 – page 221, item 78 – Wish Tower restaurant – raised by Councillor Taylor.

It was moved by Councillor Belsey and seconded by Councillor Liddiard that this matter be referred back to the Cabinet with a request to reconsider the decision to demolish the existing building.

This proposal was lost by 14 votes to 12.

2. Planning Committee, 3 January 2012 – page 230, item 50 – Enforcement performance monitoring – raised by Councillor Taylor.
3. Cabinet, 8 February 2012 – page 270, item 98 – Parking strategy – raised by Councillor Bannister.

Resolved: That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as otherwise there was a likelihood of disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The relevant paragraph of schedule 12A and description of the exempt information is shown under the item below.

4. Cabinet, 8 February 2012 – page 285, item 107 – Grants to voluntary organisations 2012/13 – item raised by Councillor Liddiard.

(Exempt information reason 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

Further to Council Procedure Rule 14.3 it was,

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

The meeting closed at 10.02 pm

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

(pf:council\12.02.22\mins)