



## Council Meeting

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in The Chamber, Pelham House, St Andrew's Lane, Lewes on Wednesday, 20 July 2011 at 2.30pm**

### Present:

Councillor E E J Russell (Chair)

Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, G R Amy, R Blackman, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, M A Cutress, S B Davy, A Dean, D R Edmunds, I Eiloart, P L Franklin, P Gander, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, D M Gray, B W Groves, J V Harris, J M Harrison-Hicks, P A Howson, A T Jones, J N MacCleary, R Main, R K Maskell, E C Merry, I A Nicholson, C R O'Keeffe, S J Osborne, J V S Page, R Robertson, S Saunders, H J F Sheppard, A X Smith, J Stockdale, C Sugarman, B M Warren and I J White.

### Apology received:

Councillor C S Lambert

	Minutes	Action
<b>35</b>	<b>Minutes</b>  The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 25 May 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	
<b>36</b>	<b>To Receive any Announcements From the Chair of the Council, Leader of the Council, Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive</b>  (i) <u>Urgent Item</u>  The Chair advised that she had agreed, in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the Recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12 July 2011, which was circulated to all members of the Council on 15 July 2011, be considered as a matter of urgency under Agenda Item 10, in order that the Council could take its decision based on the most recent information which was available.	

(ii) Chair of the Council's Engagements

The Council received the list of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council's engagements carried out since the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 25 May 2011.

(iii) Chair of the Council to Meet With Town and Parish Councils

The Chair of the Council reported that one of her roles was to serve as an ambassador to promote the Council to the wider community. In order to achieve that she was writing to the Clerks of Town and Parish Councils asking that she be invited to attend one of each of their Council meetings or events during her year of Office.

(iv) The Kent Chain of Office

The Chair of the Council further reported that the Kent Chain of Office had been presented to the Council in 1977 during Her Majesty the Queen's Silver Jubilee year.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee was due to occur in 2012 for which it was appropriate for the Chain to be in particularly good condition. The Chair had therefore arranged for it to be refurbished and gilded.

(v) Former Councillor Vic Tomkinson

It was reported that former Councillor Vic Tomkinson had died recently. He had represented Ringmer ward from 1991 to 1999 during which time he had served on several Committees and had been Chair of the Northern Area Planning Applications Committee.

The Council held a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the life of former Councillor Tomkinson.

### 37 Petition

The Chair of the Council received a petition from Councillor Gauntlett which he presented on behalf of a Seaford resident. The petition contained 293 signatures and related to Councillor White's recent conviction for the offence of drink driving.

Councillor Gauntlett briefly addressed the Council on the subject matter of the petition and the number of signatures.

The Corporate Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that she would write to the promoter of the petition and advise them as to the most appropriate way to progress the matter.

CHLDS

**38 Ward Issues**

Ward issues were raised by Councillors on the following subjects which would be reported to the next meeting of Cabinet:

Councillor/Ward	Ward Issue Concerning	
Councillor Adeniji – Seaford South Ward	<p>There was an on-going issue relating to the existence of old and incorrect signage in Seaford South ward which had been drawn to the attention of the Council's tourism section. The following signs had been pointing in the wrong direction for three years:</p> <p>West Street (behind the Police Station); Steyne Road (by the Little Theatre); and Church Street (outside the Plough Inn).</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> Could Councillor Adeniji be advised if he needs to make representation to someone else in respect of the above old and incorrect signage.</p>	CHCE (C Onslow)
Councillor Adeniji – Seaford South Ward	<p>The litter bin that was located at the Splash Point end of Seaford Seafront was emptied frequently. However, during the summer months the seafront got very busy and, consequently, the bin got full at weekends and on busy weekdays which resulted in bags of rubbish being placed on the ground.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> Was there anything that the Council could do to resolve the above issue, perhaps by the provision of wheelie bins during the busy summer months?</p>	DPES
Councillor Gray – Lewes Castle Ward	<p>Cabbage Walk was the local name for a path between Landport Road and a railway bridge in Lewes Castle ward. There was a high boundary wall on the Wallands Crescent side of the path and, on the other side, a chain link fence which separated the path from a recreation field, play area and, further along, a steep bank.</p> <p>Numerous items had been thrown over the fence including carpets, trolleys, bottles and cans. Councillor Gray had requested the Community</p>	

Councillor/Ward	Ward Issue Concerning	DPES
	Payback team if it could clear the rubbish but, due to health and safety issues, it was unable to do so.	
	<p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council undertake the clearance of the rubbish as, Councillor Gray believed, it was on the Council's land and the Council maintained the adjacent recreation ground.</p>	
Councillor Butler – Newhaven Denton and Meeching Ward	There was currently only one exit at Newhaven Fort which meant that events could be held there which comprised up to 400 people. However, it would be of benefit to the local economy and the community if a second exit was created which, if implemented, would enable events comprising up to 3000 people to be held at the Fort.	CHCE (C Onslow)
	<p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council give consideration to the use of some of its budget for the provision of a second exit at Newhaven Fort.</p>	
Councillor Main – Newhaven Denton and Meeching Ward	The pitch on which Newhaven Football Club played its home matches was affected by a large amount of weed growth.	DPES
	<p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council arrange for the pitch to be treated with a suitable weed killer so as to eradicate the weeds.</p>	
<b>39 Recommendations from Cabinet</b>		
<b>Unreserved Item</b>		
	The Chair of the Council, Councillor Russell, moved, and Councillor Jones seconded, the motion that the recommendation of Cabinet held on 12 July 2011 contained in Minute 29 relating to the Annual Treasury Management Report 2010/2011, be received and adopted.	
	The motion was put to the meeting, <u>Declared Carried</u> , and it was	

Resolved:

**39.1** Accordingly.

DF

### **Reserved Item**

#### **Lewes District Council Revised Statement of Community Involvement (Minute 17)**

The Chair of the Cabinet, Councillor Nicholson, moved, and Councillor Robertson seconded, the motion that the recommendation of Cabinet held on 31 May 2011 contained in Minute 17 relating to the Lewes District Council Revised Statement of Community Involvement, together with the additional recommendations as set out in the document entitled "Note for Council – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011" which were set out on pages 4 and 5 of Council Document A, be received and adopted.

The motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and it was

Resolved:

**39.2** Accordingly.

DPES

#### **40 Notice of Motion**

The Chair of the Council reported that a Notice of Motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13 by Councillor Saunders relating to the starting times of future meetings of the Council and Cabinet and the provision of training, consultation and presentations to members of the Council and the public being provided at every opportunity, both during and outside normal working hours.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor Saunders moved, and Councillor Eiloart seconded, the Notice of Motion as follows:

#### "Timing of Council and Cabinet Meetings and Provision of Training for Councillors"

The Council notes the following:

The District Council has historically met for Full Council and Cabinet Meetings at 2.30pm. This results in many working Councillors having to take time off from their paid employment or own businesses to attend. Although it assumed legislation demands that employers give their employees reasonable time off to attend meetings and many do, this is not the case in law. In the present poor economic climate it is not reasonable to expect such favour from hard-pressed employers that require their employees to give nothing less than 100% to remain competitive in an increasingly depressed marketplace. Several of my colleagues and I on all sides of the Council, choose to take the time off as annual leave and

therefore give up a large percentage of the holiday time they have available to spend with our families. This is one of the reasons that many members of the community are dissuaded from ever becoming Councillors in the first place and subsequently reduces the cross-section of the membership of the Council as a whole and how it reflects the views of the entire electorate. Indeed, it is difficult for members of the public to similarly attend meetings and engage in the running of the Council at all, when a large section are at work themselves.

Engagement and consultation with the community and transparency in the operation of Council and Cabinet Meetings is essential to retain the confidence of electors and promote the work we do.

The availability of accessible training opportunities is important too, for new and experienced Councillors alike. The majority of these sessions, that have been offered in the past and have continued since the beginning of this Council, have taken place during the working day. This exacerbates the problem of attendance by working members and results in a low take-up of the important training that is essential for us to do the job that the public have elected us to do.

I would ask the Council to resolve the present situation by adopting the following Notice of Motion:

To enable greater engagement with members and the public:

1. The timing of the meetings of Full Council be changed from 2.30pm to 5.30pm from the next meeting of the Council on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011
2. The timings of the meetings of the Cabinet be changed from 2.30pm to 5.30pm from the next meeting of the Cabinet on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011
3. That opportunities for training, consultation and presentations to members and the public be provided at every opportunity, both during and outside normal working hours”.

*(Note: The proposals set out in 1 and 2 above aimed to rescind a decision that was made by the Council at its meeting held on 16 February 2011 which was within the previous six months and, in respect of which, there had not been a significant change of circumstance. Therefore, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1 on page D16 of the Council's Constitution, the Notice of Motion had been signed by five Councillors namely, Councillors Chartier, Dean, Gauntlett, Gray and Osborne, who supported the Motion and recommended its adoption by the Council).*

During the ensuing debate, several suggestions were made relating to the starting times of future meetings of the Council and Cabinet and ways in which such times could be considered including a proposal from the

Leader of the Council, Councillor Nicholson, that the Notice of Motion be withdrawn and that the starting times of those meetings be considered as part of the consultation with all Councillors in respect of the Meetings Timetable 2012/2013.

Following the debate, the Chair of the Council, Councillor Russell, moved, and Councillor Nicholson seconded, the motion that the meeting be adjourned for a period of five minutes to enable the Officers time to discuss with the mover and seconder of the Notice of Motion, and with other Councillors, matters relating to the most appropriate way of progressing the motion.

The meeting then reconvened following which:

Councillor Saunders, with the agreement of his seconder and with the consent of Council, moved that, in light of the proposal made by the Leader of the Council, the Notice of Motion be amended:

- (a) by the deletion of the recommendations set out in 1 and 2; and
- (b) by the retention of the recommendation set out in 3.

The Chair of the Council, Councillor Russell, moved, and Councillor Nicholson seconded, the motion that the proposals set out in (a) and (b) of the amended Notice of Motion be considered separately by the Council.

The Chair of the Council's motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and it was

Resolved:

**40.2** Accordingly.

The proposal referred to in part (a) of the amended Notice of Motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and it was

Resolved:

**40.3** Accordingly.

The proposal referred to in part (b) of the amended Notice of Motion was put to the meeting, Declared not Carried, and it was

Resolved:

**40.4** Accordingly.

All CMT  
and HDS  
(to note)

All CMT  
and HDS  
(to note)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nicholson, moved, and Councillor Jones seconded, the motion that the starting times of meetings of the Council and Cabinet be considered as part of the consultation with all Councillors in respect of the Meetings Timetable 2012/2013.

Councillor Nicholson's motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and it was

Resolved:

**40.5** Accordingly.

CHLDS/  
HDS

#### **41 Corporate Head – Housing Services – Delegated Power**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nicholson, moved, and Councillor Maskell seconded, the motion that the recommendation set out in Agenda Item 12 in Council Document A relating to an addition to the delegated powers given to the Corporate Head of Housing Services which would allow him to arrange for the carrying out of homelessness reviews internally or to outsource them when to do so would be more efficient or convenient, be received and adopted and that page U26 of the Council's Constitution be amended by the insertion of a new paragraph (m), as detailed in Agenda Item 12.

The motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and it was

Resolved:

**41.1** Accordingly.

CHLDS  
(Z Downton)

The meeting ended at 3.40pm

E E J Russell  
Chair