



## Council Meeting

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in The Chamber, Pelham House, St Andrew's Lane, Lewes on Tuesday, 6 December 2011 at 2.30pm**

### **Present:**

Councillor E E J Russell (Chair)

Councillors S Adeniji, G R Amy, R Blackman, C A Bowers, 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, J V Harris, J M Harrison-Hicks, P A Howson, A T Jones, J N MacCleary, 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.

### **Apologies received:**

Councillors R E Allen, C J Butler, B W Groves, C S Lambert and R Main.

The meeting was preceded by a briefing to Councillors on matters relating to Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Planning.

	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>91</b>	<b>Minutes</b>  The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 28 September 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	
<b>92</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>The Next Meeting of the Council - Monday, 20 February 2012</u>  The Chair of the Council, Councillor Russell, reminded Councillors that the next Council Meeting would be held commencing at 2.30pm on Monday,	

20 February 2012 and would take place in the Council Chamber, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, of which an audio/visual recording would be made and placed on the Council's website.

(ii) Chair of the Council's Engagements

The Council received the list of the Chair of the Council's engagements carried out since the Meeting of the Council held on 28 September 2011.

(iii) Refreshments at Meetings of the Council

The Chair of the Council reported that the owners of Pelham House, in which Meetings of the Council were held, had kindly offered to provide refreshments at those Meetings at no cost to the Council on a trial basis but, instead, in exchange for voluntary, in-lieu donations from Councillors who partook of those refreshments. Such donations would be sent to Pelham House chosen charity namely Chestnut Tree House which was the only children's hospice in Sussex and which provided specialist palliative care to children and young adults.

The Chair, on behalf of the Council, thanked Pelham House for their kind offer and encouraged Councillors to support such a worthwhile charity.

**93 Written Questions from Councillors**

Councillor Adeniji asked questions of the Cabinet Member for Health and Environment, Councillor Smith, relating to:

(a) The way that the Council intended to work with the Sussex Primary Care Trust Cluster in order to ensure that the needs of local communities were being met; and

(b) The steps that the Council had taken since May 2011 in order to comply with its public health responsibility.

Councillor Smith reported that he had prepared responses to those questions but, as they were sufficiently detailed, he would arrange for them to be circulated to all Members of the Council in due course.

DPES

**94 Ward Issues**

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

<p><u>Councillor/Ward</u> Councillor Stockdale – Lewes Bridge Ward</p>	<p><u>Ward Issue Concerning</u> An alleged breach of planning control relating to the depositing and distribution of salt to and from New Pit Depot, Mill Road, Lewes, by the current owner, in respect of which the Council had already taken some enforcement action.</p>	
<p>Councillor Davy – Chailey and Wivelsfield Ward</p>	<p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council investigate, and if appropriate, take a more robust and effective line of enforcement action in respect of the above.</p> <p>The dissatisfaction of many residents, especially those who lived in South Chailey, in respect of the reception and intermittent signal of the broadband service that was provided to that area by BT for which Councillor Davy had asked for, and obtained, East Sussex County Council's confirmation that it would make the improvement of broadband facilities a policy priority as a key driver for the local economy of that area.</p>	<p>CHLDS</p>
	<p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Chief Executive be requested to write to East Sussex County Council, with a copy of that letter being sent to Councillor Davy, in order to confirm Councillor Davy's request for South Chailey to be considered as a priority when work associated with the provision of improved of broadband facilities was being arranged.</p>	<p>CE/CHCE</p>
<p>Councillor Bowers – Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward</p>	<p>The issues which Councillor Bowers had reported as a Ward Issue at the Council Meeting held on 28 September 2011, in respect of allotments in the area adjacent to Green Close, Ringmer.</p>	
	<p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Officers be thanked for the work which they had undertaken in respect of the problems associated with the allotments referred to above.</p>	<p>DPES</p>
<p>Councillor Saunders – Newhaven Valley Ward</p>	<p>Councillor Saunders reported that the Leader of the Council was shortly to attend a meeting with the Federation of Small Businesses which had a Small Business Accord in respect of which all local authorities in the area, except the Council, had</p>	

Councillor/Ward

Ward Issue Concerning

signed.

Suggested action to be taken by the Council:

That the Council be requested to sign the Accord referred to above and that the Leader of the Council be requested to report details, to all Members of the Council, of his forthcoming meeting with the Federation of Small Businesses.

CHCE

## 95 Urgent Decisions taken by the Cabinet or Lead Councillors

Urgent Decision taken by the Cabinet

In accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17, the Corporate Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported details of an urgent decision that had been taken by Cabinet at its meeting on 23 November 2011, which was not subject to the call-in procedure, together with the reason for such urgency, as follows:

Resolution 81.2 relating to the 2 hours free car parking per customer each day from 1 December 2011 to 5 January 2012 in the newly refurbished multi storey car park at Newhaven, was urgent, in order that the Director of Finance could undertake the necessary work to implement the scheme in time for its commencement on 1 December 2011.

## 96 Recommendations from Cabinet

**Unreserved Item**

**Mid-year Treasury Management Report 2011/2012 (Minute 79)**

The Chair of the Council, Councillor Russell, moved, and Councillor Nicholson seconded, the motion that the recommendations of Cabinet held on 23 November 2011 contained in Minute 79 relating to the Mid-year Treasury Management Report 2011/2012, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

**96.1** Accordingly.

DF

**97 Notices of Motion**

The Chair of the Council reported that a Notice of Motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13 by Councillor Gray relating to the personal addressing of consultation letters that were associated with publicising planning applications.

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

“Planning Consultation Procedure

Article 12B of the Town and Country Planning General Development Order (GDO) makes local planning authorities responsible for publicising planning applications, so that neighbours and other interested parties can make their views known. The GDO provides for three basic types of publicity:

- (i) A notice in a local newspaper
- (ii) A site notice
- (iii) Notification to owners/occupiers of adjoining properties.

The publicity required depends upon the nature of the development but will always require a site notice in the vicinity of the proposed development and, very often, there will also be neighbour notification.

However, the situation often arises where the proposed development could affect people who do not live in the same road as the development in question but in an adjacent road, for instance. These people may well not see the site notice. If they are to be consulted, the policy, at present is to put an envelope through the door addressed 'to the occupier'. An envelope such as this is regarded by many people as 'junk mail' and is often discarded without being opened.

I therefore request that henceforth consultation letters are addressed personally to the owner/occupier of all adjoining properties who may have concern about a proposed development.”

With the agreement of his seconder and with the consent of Council, Councillor Gray agreed to the amendment of his Notice of Motion to read “.....concern about a proposed development both in the same and adjacent affected roads.” (final paragraph refers).

The substantive motion was put to the meeting, Declared not Carried, and it was

Resolved:

**97.1** Accordingly.

DPES (to

Following consideration of the substantive motion referred to above, the Cabinet Member for Planning, Councillor Jones, undertook to send all future consultation letters that were associated with publicising planning applications, to be clearly headed as "PLANNING NOTIFICATION", in such a way so as to be visible through the window of the envelopes in which such letters were sent.

**98 Change to Composition of the Conservative Group, Committee Memberships and Remit of Planning Applications Committee**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Nicholson, moved, and Councillor Robertson seconded, the motion that the recommendations contained in Report No 201/11 relating to a change to the composition of the Conservative Group, committee memberships and the remit of the Planning Applications Committee, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

**98.1** Accordingly.

note)

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The meeting ended at 3.10pm

E E J Russell  
Chair