



Meeting of the Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in The Chamber, Pelham House, St Andrew's Lane, Lewes on Wednesday, 17 October 2012 at 2.30pm

Present:

Councillor I A Nicholson (Chair)

Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, G R Amy, R Blackman, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, 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, A T Jones, C S Lambert, J N MacCleary, R K Maskell, E C Merry, C R O'Keeffe, S J Osborne, J V S Page, R Robertson, E E J Russell, S Saunders, H J F Sheppard, A X Smith, J Stockdale, C Sugarman, B M Warren and I J White.

Apologies received:

Councillors M A Cutress, P A Howson and R Main

	Minutes	Action
75	Minutes The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 19 July 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	
76	To Receive any Announcements From the Chair of the Council, Leader of the Council, Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive (i) <u>Certificate from the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012 – Olympic Torch Relay</u> The Chair reported details of a certificate that had been sent to the Council by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and	

Paralympic Games 2012 which thanked the Council for the part that it had played in the events surrounding the Olympic Torch Relay.

The Chair thanked Minna Robertson who had organised the Torch Relay events on behalf of the Council.

(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 Meeting of the Council held on 19 July 2012.

The Chair thanked the Vice-Chair for attending some of those engagements.

77 Petitions

The Chair of the Council received a petition from Councillor O'Keeffe which she presented on behalf of Claire Meehan, a Lewes resident. The petition contained 133 signatures and related to the provision, or re-opening, of public toilets in, or close to, all public parks and play areas in Lewes.

Councillor O'Keeffe briefly addressed the Council on the subject matter of the petition and the number of signatures.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12(a), the petition would be referred to a future meeting of Cabinet.

CHPRE

78 Questions to the Leader of the Council

Councillors asked questions of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Page, on the following subjects, oral responses to which were given at the meeting:

Questioner

Councillor
Robertson

Question/Response

Question:

The date from which The Crest development in Newhaven would be occupied by Council tenants.

Response:

It was anticipated that up to 12 families would be

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<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Question/Response</u>
	occupying The Crest from around January/February 2013.
Councillor MacCleary	<p><u>Question:</u></p> <p>Does the Leader of the Council agree that the burden of the Government's cuts to Council benefit should not be borne by those who can least afford it? If so, does he agree that the remaining amount to cover the shortfall should be taken from reserves rather than from existing Council Tax benefit recipients?</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The matter was currently the subject of wide consultation and the Scrutiny Committee would be working to further investigate the issue. Once that process had been completed, it would be for the Council to decide upon the best way to proceed.</p>
Councillor Butler	<p><u>Question:</u></p> <p>As a Ward Councillor, Councillor Butler was informed at a late stage of a consultation relating to Newhaven that was held at Southdown School. Such late notice was not acceptable. What steps was the appropriate Cabinet Member taking to improve communications with councillors and the public to ensure that communication failures like that were not repeated?</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The consultation to which Councillor Butler referred had not been organised by the Council. Instead, the Council had simply shared details of the event as far as it had been able.</p>
Councillor Eiloart	<p><u>Question:</u></p> <p>People were increasingly concerned about the Council's plans for properties including St Mary's Social Centre, Lewes, and Southover Grange, Lewes. When will the Council consult with Communities, particularly its tenants, about its</p>

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(R Allan)

<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Question/Response</u>	
	<p>property review?</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The Council's Property and Regeneration Strategies had been published and a process was currently being undertaken in order to establish the overall community benefit of some of its property assets in line with those Strategies. There were currently no firm plans in respect of specific properties. However, a consultation process would be undertaken in respect of ideas when they had been formulated.</p>	CHPRE
79	Ward Issues	
	<p>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>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor O'Keeffe – Lewes Priory Ward	<p>Councillor O'Keeffe had received correspondence from some constituents relating to rumours that Southover Grange was to be closed and to the future provision of the Register Service which was undertaken in the Grange. A Save the Grange Campaign had been launched in response to those rumours.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u></p> <p>That the Council publish a statement on its website relating to the future of Southover Grange and the future provision of the Register Service.</p> <p><i>(Note: The Leader of the Council responded that negotiations were continuing relating to the future provision of the Register Service. The Council had no proposals to sell Southover Grange but, like some of its other assets, it was considering ways in which the future of the Grange could be made sustainable).</i></p>	CHPRE

Councillor/WardWard Issue Concerning

Councillor Chartier
– Lewes Castle
Ward

Constituents who were concerned about the Council's possible proposals relating to the future of St Mary's Social Centre, Lewes

Suggested action to be taken by the Council:

That Councillor Chartier be kept fully informed of developments and proposals in respect of the future of St Mary's Social Centre in order that he could respond to constituents who raised the matter with him.

(Note: The Leader of the Council responded that Councillor Chartier would be kept informed of such issues).

CHPRE

80 Recommendations from Cabinet**Reserved Item**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Page, moved, and Councillor Robertson seconded, the motion that the recommendations of Cabinet held on 1 October 2012 contained in Minute 71 relating to the Recommendations of the Constitution Working Party, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

80.1 Accordingly.

CHLDS

81 Recommendations from the Licensing Committee

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Page, moved, and Councillor Harrison-Hicks seconded, the motion that the recommendations of the Licensing Committee held on 28 August 2012 contained in Minute 7 relating to the Updating of Lewes District Council's Statement of Licensing Policy, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

81.1 Accordingly.

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(L Lacon)

82 Notices of Motion

The Chair of the Council reported that a Notice of Motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13 by Councillor Dean relating to car parking arrangements in Lewes, the lunchtime collection of refuse in Cliffe High Street, Lewes and the time of general collections and deliveries by large trucks to businesses in the Cliffe area of that town, details of which were set out under Agenda Item 13.

However, Councillor Dean was not in attendance at the appropriate time in the meeting in order that she could move the Notice of Motion. Instead, following a brief discussion and with the agreement of Council, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor MacCleary moved, and Councillor O’Keeffe seconded, an amended version of the Notice of Motion as follows (*Note: Paragraph k being omitted from the original version as set out under Agenda Item 13*):

“Lewes is the County Town of East Sussex, it houses a number of buildings of historic interest and a high street that still provides tourists and other visitors as well as residents with a variety of independent retailers. It is also in the heart of a predominantly rural area with uneven provision for public transport. Despite the very real concerns about encouraging more traffic through the town there is a need to review existing parking provision and make the very best use of what we have, as well as to provide a modest increase in available car parking spaces.

The issue of parking is an emotive issue, not only in this town, however complaints about the cost and condition of what is seen as inadequate parking facilities that are in some cases unsignposted and hidden from view are often voiced.

The free car parks offered by major supermarket have the inadvertent effect of funnelling visitors to the town to their car parks, given that they are the most obvious, and in many cases, most well kept car parks. This could be seen to unfairly disadvantage the independent retailers/businesses in the high street who rely on public car parks to service their customers. Some of the public car parks have potholed surfaces, are unlit, have poor surfaces, lack of bay marking and inadequate or non existent overhead lighting. Customers are still charged for parking. Far from offering a welcome and much needed facility in the town these car parks are unwelcoming and

consequently detrimental to both local business and local needs.

In 2008 a timely and prudent commission by the previous administration was made for a report from Mott MacDonald to review the existing stock of off street parking by the previous administration. Two stakeholder consultation events and consultations in Sept. and November 2008 and a briefing session on the progress of the study were carried out in February 2010. The final report from Mott Macdonald was received in August 2010.

A number of different resolutions to the off street parking problems were offered. Overall, the consultants recommended a strategy of "slight expansion" to current off street parking provision by 10% from 1250 to 1375 spaces. This report took into account the environmental impact of the additional parking provision.

Since that report was produced Lewes's existing off street parking provision has unfortunately decreased due to the development of the Police Station and the Aldi Supermarket and the recommendation to increase parking from the 2010 level was not acted upon. So the number of off street car parking spaces is not only inadequate in terms of the 2010 report when there were two areas of car parking available then that now no longer exist, it is doubly inadequate due to both the loss of existing spaces and the lack of additional car parking spaces that the report recommended at the time.

The motion I would like to put to the council for its consideration is that;

- a. In addition to acting upon the advice given by Mott MacDonald in 2010 to increase the existing parking provision by 10%, a comprehensive review of the fee structure and the current condition of off street car parks is undertaken, with a view to standardizing the fee structure and costing necessary improvements to off street car parks, including planting around the car parks, (particularly those that are in scenic parts on the town) and overhead lighting.
- b. A review of the fees and consequent standardization of the fee structure could result in a higher return without increasing the overall cost to users and would go some way toward paying for the necessary improvements to local car parking facilities. In addition, clarification of the fee structure should include easier methods of payment, (currently the lack of change for meters has meant that local businesses are reluctant to part with change and even local banks have been known to refuse to provide change) such as a card.
- c. That provision for additional parking space be considered and specifically, the possibility of the council leasing the car park from the

owner of the magistrates court currently for sale on a short/long term, in a similar manner to the arrangement that was made to lease the car park on the Aldi site, until another suitable long term site can be found and the off street parking be increased up to an extra 1,000 car parking spaces.

- d. That an electric charge point be situated in one of the car parks.
- e. That research into the possibility of all car parks in Lewes being assigned a postcode (or nearest possible) so that anyone visiting Lewes could locate with ease on a GPS or mobile phone the location of those car parks. (The Maltings and Cockshut Lane for example).
- f. That a clear diagrammatic map showing the location and code of all car parks be put on a separate page of the District Councils website, with a key, illustrating the tariffs and fines.
- g. That we ask that the County place effective, informative and decorative signs indicating the presence of all car parks to be erected in clearly visible locations.
- h. That the percentage of the fees and fines charged from car parking that goes toward local transport improvements be clarified and that it is seen to be put to this use.
- i. That additional funding to improve the car parking surfaces where necessary, mark out bays, provide effective signage, plant and tidy up the surrounding areas etc. be sought from the sustainable transport grant, given that efficient use of existing as well as additional car parking off the high street would contribute greatly to an improvement to air quality within the town and ease congestion.
- j. That the possibility of a competition to design a banner to be inserted above all these signs be considered that will convey the character and beauty of the town and its environment as well as a welcome to visitors to the largest town in any national park in the country."

Councillor Blackman moved, and Councillor Page seconded, an amendment as follows:

"That, as the matter of off-street car parking was to be the subject of a Report to Cabinet at its meeting in November 2012, the Notice of Motion, as amended, be referred to the Officers for consideration in the preparation of

that Report.”

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared Carried.

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

Resolved:

82.1 Accordingly.

CHPRE

83 Scrutiny at Lewes District Council – Annual Report 2011/2012

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Osborne, moved, and Councillor Page seconded, the motion that the Annual Report 2011/2012 in respect of Scrutiny at Lewes District Council, as set out in Report No 175/12, be received and noted.

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

Resolved:

83.1 Accordingly.

84 Timing of Full Council and Cabinet Meetings From 2013/2014

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Page, moved, and Councillor Harrison-Hicks seconded, the motion that the recommendations contained in Report No 176/12 relating to the Timing of Full Council and Cabinet Meetings From 2013/2014, be received and adopted and that the meeting of the Council scheduled for July 2013 be held prior to the commencement of the schools’ summer holiday.

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

Resolved:

84.1 Accordingly.

CHLDS

85 Reporting Back on Meetings of Outside Bodies

Councillors provided feedback on meetings which they had attended as the Council’s representatives on outside bodies as follows:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Outside Body</u>
Councillor Nicholson	<u>East Sussex Health and Well-Being Board</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Board currently served as a Shadow Board before taking over its full responsibilities in April 2013.- The Council will, in the future, have an important preventative role to play in respect of alcohol licensing and food hygiene issues.- Following public consultation, the Healthy Lives Healthy People strategy was being developed and was scheduled to be presented on 11 December 2012.
Councillor Harris	<u>Age UK East Sussex Governing Body</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- For 2014, the Governing Body aimed to ensure that the services it provided were financially sustainable and that it understood its key customers and markets to which it would deliver relevant services and products.- Falls prevention outcomes had been excluded from local grant funding commissioning, the impact of which was a loss of Health funding of around £48,000 for falls prevention services (£28,000 for falls prevention activity and a further £20,000 for toenail cutting).- Exclusion of advocacy outcomes had resulted in over £70,000 of Health funding being lost.- There had also been a loss of over £53,000 per year for Benefits Outreach following the ending of funding by East Sussex County Council in May 2011.- Funding for services of over £170,000 per year had been lost.
Councillor Adeniji	<u>Seaford Community Partnership</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Partnership had welcomed the

CouncillorOutside Body

Council's publication of the Lewes District Core Strategy, particularly with regard to proposals for Newhaven, and hoped that some economic regeneration activities would be implemented in Seaford.

Councillor Jones

South Downs National Park Authority

- The Lewes Town Conservation Area Management Plan and the Extension of the Lewes Conservation Area Boundary had both recently been approved by the Authority.

The meeting ended at 3.28pm

I A Nicholson
Chair